

THE SYCAMORE TREE



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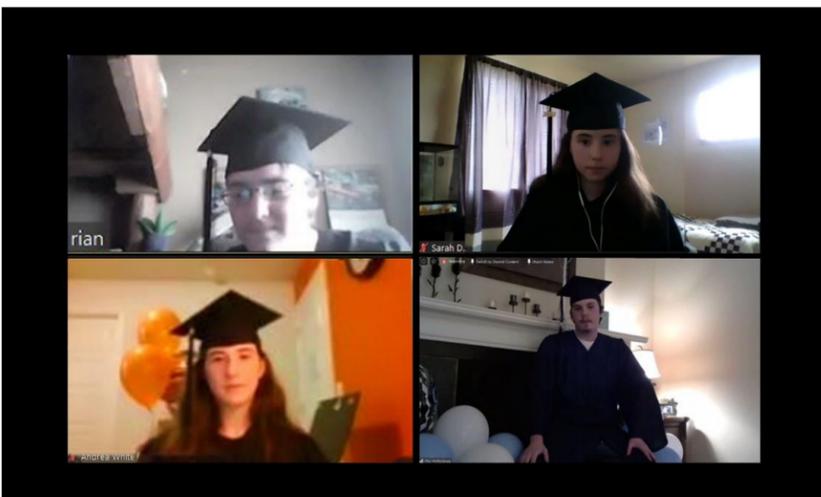


8th Grade Graduating Class

This is our last month of school this year, and our eighth grade and high school senior graduation ceremonies were held on May 11th and 12th this year. Ten eighth graders and four high school seniors all commemorated their educational milestone with a virtual graduation ceremony. After opening with a heartfelt welcome and touching prayer, our students continued the graduation with a short address. They thanked family, friends, and teachers for guiding them through these years. Teachers and family also celebrated with short dedications for the students.

As our high school seniors moved their tassels to the left, everyone rejoiced in the bittersweet memory of their journey through school. Both our middle schoolers and our high schoolers are opening a new chapter in their lives. Our middle schoolers will turn into high schoolers, and our high schoolers are moving beyond. Whether they are continuing to a higher education, entering the workforce, joining the military, etc., Sycamore Academy is proud of these graduates and cannot wait to see the impact they will create on the world!

However, it is important to remember that only one phase of your education is over. Learning is a lifelong endeavor – one that does not end with the moving of a tassel to the left of a cap. Our students are always learning, always striving for greatness. Good luck to all of our graduates from Sycamore Academy!



Senior Graduating Class



Happy Mother's Day!

There will be no school on Memorial Day, May 25, this year.

Find the hidden butterfly in this newsletter to enter a drawing for a free yearbook. Send its location to lori@sycamoreacademy.com by May 28 to enter! Congratulations to last month's winner, Mikayla Tijunait!

Last month's Easter egg was in the "Meet the Authors and Editor" section on page 3.



RYAN DAULT



Legos, Photos, Autos, and a Techno Future

By Hannah Klingbeil

Born February 12, 2002 in L'Ance Michigan, Ryan Joseph Dault was the first-born son of Mike and Karen Dault. Can you imagine the excitement and joy when it was announced that he was a healthy boy? Ryan's mom, Karen, works for the state on road construction and his dad, Mike, works for an electrical plant. The Dault family enjoys their many pets. Together, they have one cat, two indoor dogs, and one outdoor dog. Ryan, Kaci (his sister), and his parents still reside in L'Ance, only moving a few times around town.

From an incredibly young age, Ryan has had a love for Legos. Due to his love for Legos, Ryan has developed an interest in photography and has become quite good at making his Lego cars come to life via photography. He not only has an interest in Lego cars but also real-life cars. Among the different cars he likes, his favorite is the Porsche. This would explain why if he could do anything or go anywhere, he would visit the Porsche factory in Germany.

Ryan is a congenial guy, and he has many favorites. Even though dogs are man's best friend, Ryan has chosen his favorite animal to be the shark, hardly considered a friendly animal. His favorite color is blue. Coming home from a long day, Ryan enjoys devouring his favorite dishes of lasagna and pizza.

Ryan and his family attend church regularly. Whenever he can, he is always enthusiastic about helping other people. Ryan's favorite verse, Philippians 4:13, is a verse he frequently turns to when he feels down or inadequate: "I can do all things though Christ who strengthens me." He finds comfort knowing that he can do anything though Christ.

Ryan has been involved with Sycamore Academy for two years. After he graduates from Sycamore this year, Ryan plans on going to college for Information Technology. Ryan is gifted in working with technology and computers. His ultimate goal is to be successful. Congratulations, Ryan, on your graduation! We can't wait to see what you will do in your future.

-THE DIGITAL NEWSPAPER-

TRENDING NOW!

BY SHEMILY M-L ORTIZ

Mother's Day is soon approaching. Let's take this opportunity to show our moms some love for the love they have given us throughout our lives. To all the moms out there, we thank you for all the support and encouragement you have given us and for all the time spent homeschooling us. We appreciate all you have done for us.

To spread joy and laughter this Mother's Day, we have come up with some crafty ideas to celebrate your mom. First on our list is rocks. Now I know this sounds funny, but rocks can be quite entertaining and can be made into fantastic gifts. Go to your backyard and find a special rock. Bring it inside, wash it, and paint a picture of an animal or scenery. You can also paper-mache it or put glitter and googly eyes on it. Get creative! The possibilities are endless. Give it to your mom as a paper weight or a decoration for her flower garden.

If a bouquet is on your mind, you can go out into your backyard and grab a patch of yellow dandelions. Tie them together with a grass blade and tell her you picked a special bouquet of flowers. In these difficult times, picking dandelions or wildflowers is a great way to enjoy nature and find a gift for your mom. It will touch her heart to see the extent you went to make sure she received flowers. There is nothing you can give that will mean more than making your mom laugh and smile. If gifting your mom weeds was not on the top of your list, you can make a bouquet using pipe cleaners and a nicely decorated mason jar. Simply turn the pipe cleaners into flowers, wrap some string or lace around your mason jar, and place your handmade flowers inside.

Another great idea for Mother's Day is to write your mother's name on a card vertically. For each letter, write a word that describes the special qualities in your mom. In the end, you will have a card that describes what your mother means to you.

For those of us who only have one parent, don't forget to celebrate and honor them during this Mother's Day. If you don't have a mom, celebrate and honor whoever fulfills that role in your life. Let them know how much they mean to you and how much you care for them.

Here's an update on Corona. For some, this pandemic has made them very sad, anxious, and lonely because of the uncertainty of not knowing how long this phase in our lives will last. Not only have we been given stay-at-home orders from our local governing authorities, we have also been asked to exercise social distancing when out in public. In my experience the words *social distancing* are the reason people have felt so much anxiety. If these words affect you the same way, think of it as temporary distancing instead. Just remember this will not last forever, but it will save lives. When those moments of sadness come, remember the word of God. In Isaiah 41:10, it says, "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Keeping our minds on the word of God will help us to stay positive and find encouragement.

Use this free time wisely. Now would be a great time to do those fun hobbies we have always wanted to try like arts and crafts, sculpting, painting, wood carving, or whatever your heart desires. Let your creativity shine through. You may be surprised to see all you can do.

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. Traveling 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.

-THE DIGITAL NEWSPAPER-

ANNETTE BRADLEY-MARTES



From left to right: Annette Bradley-Martes, her daughter, and her husband

An Effervescent English Educator

By Angelina Castillo

Mrs. Martes currently teaches freshman, sophomore, and junior English. The secondary standards for language arts used by the NAD were written by six original authors, one of which was Mrs. Martes. She has also taught nearly all grades from elementary to the freshman year of college. Even though she has only been teaching here at Sycamore Academy for one semester, she has left an impact on all of her students.

Annette Martes was born in Detroit, Michigan. She lived with her parents and her older brother named Arthur. She had a wonderful childhood, growing up with dogs, cats, and a turtle. Her favorite subjects were English and history. Ever since she was small, her parents cultivated in her and her brother the love of reading. She loved to go on all different kinds of adventures through her books. In fact, one of her favorite things to do was to go down to the Detroit Public Library, or to her neighborhood library, and come back with an armload of books. She would read anything and everything she could get her hands on. She would read books from science to geography to picture and fiction books. Her favorite book was *The Yearling* by Marjorie Rawlings.

Mrs. Martes' favorite childhood memory comes from when she lived in a house that had a cubby hole. The cubby hole was a cozy little room that was set off from where their bedrooms were. The small room had a little window. On either side of the room, there were storage benches where she and her brother would put their toys and books. She enjoyed sitting on the bench with a good book, a glass of milk, and Hydrox cookies. Sometimes, she would look out the window and watch the seasons change. She would see leaves, snow, and rain all fall down past the window.

Annette Martes always wanted to be a writer and editor, never a teacher. In college, she enrolled in communications and journalism, but loved her English classes the most. She received her bachelor's in English with minors in social sciences and psychology. She also worked as a psychiatric mental health tech at the Battle Creek Adventist Hospital.

After college graduation, Mrs. Martes worked at the Adventist Review. She lived in Silver Springs, Maryland, and worked at the Adventist Review, right across from the GC head quarter's building. She would even go and eat lunch with the staff who worked in the GC building. She thought she had her dream job. After a year and a half, a friend from

college called her and said that they needed an English teacher at a school in Oklahoma. The principal agreed to fly her out and interview her. "We just want you to look at the school and make a decision," her friend said.

Mrs. Martes flew from Washington, D.C. to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. When she stepped into the classroom, something came over her. She knew she was exactly where she was supposed to be. Because she had never wanted to become a teacher, she had never taken any education classes. Somehow, when she walked into her classroom, she knew what to do. The week after Thanksgiving, she began her teaching career. She has been a teacher ever since, and she knows that this is what God wants her to do.

Mrs. Martes is married and has one daughter. She currently lives in Toledo, Ohio, and has lived there for almost two years. In her family-friendly neighborhood, Mrs. Martes enjoys watching people ride bicycles and push strollers near her house. One of her favorite things about where she lives is that there is a mall with a Kohl's in it just one block away where she can shop. Best of all, one block away, there is a Barnes and Noble.

She loves to read about WWII and will read a book or two per week. Mrs. Martes also loves to journal. As she said, "You can't mess up a journal. You can make them any way you want." She used to collect postcards, enjoys couponing, and worked in recovery at JCPenney. She was the assistant manager at a bookstore, which is now a Barnes and Noble. She loves being around people and making things look nice.

If you were to look into her home, you would see Mrs. Martes and her family sitting down together, each doing something different. Her husband will be reading maps, her daughter will be doing a word search puzzle, and Mrs. Martes will be doing a crossword puzzle. Later, you might also see them sitting together around a book called *Finding Waldo*. They love doing things together.

Mrs. Martes is often amazed by how much she is energized by her students and how much she learns from them. When a student says something that she hasn't even thought of, she writes it in the margins of her textbooks, and she uses their comments when she teaches the same thing again the next year. Mrs. Martes is inspired to continue teaching when her students say, "I didn't even like English before I joined your class. I feel like I can write now; I never

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SYCAMORE ACADEMY'S DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

SYCAMORE STUDIES

Our students are doing amazing things every month! This month, we would like to highlight Sarah Wayd's accomplishments in a national competition (top). In addition, our sixth/seventh graders dressed up for their final History project. Tyler (middle left) dressed up as Sequoyah. Nicole is one of our eighth graders who made a science fair poster (middle right), and Hailee (bottom) baked some dog cookies for Culinary Arts.

Marketing Management for a Magnificent Student By Sarah Radke



Sycamore Academy is proud of our high-achieving students! One of them, Sarah Wayd, has been working hard to achieve a high school and college diploma simultaneously. She is active in many community and educational programs, and she has recently been a part of a marketing management program in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. With the help of her teammate, Sarah was qualified and accepted into a DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) competition that occurred on the 18th and 19th of February in Oklahoma City. To the elation of Sycamore Academy and Sarah, her team's commitment to their project resulted in their team winning second place in the competition.

Now, Sarah and her team will attend an international competition in marketing management on April 29 in Nashville, Tennessee. Our best wishes are with you, Sarah!



THE SPIRITUAL CORNER

BY NICOLE DEOSO

“Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.” Romans 12:12
Whenever we want something, we go to God, pray about it, and expect our prayers to be answered right away.

To teach patience, start worship with a fun game called “Simon Says”. Choose a leader. The leader will lead the group to do a set of activities such as sitting up and down, walking in place, etc. To make it a little more complex, change the command to something like “walk in place with your left arm raised”. The more complex commands require listening and patience.

We need to pray, but also be patient. God answers our prayers when it is in His will. Just as the game requires patience, so does trusting God. That is something I noticed when I spoke with my friends about the character of God. We all agreed - He is loving and patient. One of my friends said, “We always say we want to be like our Heavenly Father, but we seem to always forget that patience is also part of His character”.

“I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry.”

SYCAMORE ACADEMY'S DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

CRAFTS & COOKING

Magazine Mosaic Flag

The earliest recollections of a Memorial Day commemoration can be traced back to Charleston, South Carolina in the year of 1865 and was first held by a group of very grateful freed slaves. The federal government, however, later instituted Waterloo, New York as the official birthplace of the Memorial Day, formerly known as Decoration Day. Originally instituted for remembering the fallen soldiers of the Civil War, Memorial Day later came to be known as a holiday to commemorate all military personnel who have given their lives for their country throughout the course of time.



Supplies:

- A piece of cardboard 4" x 6" (can also be larger if desired)
- White paint
- Old magazines
- A pair of scissors
- String
- White glue or glue stick
- Hot glue gun

Instructions:

1. After having cut your piece of cardboard to desired size proceed to paint over with white paint. Allow time to dry.
2. Meanwhile, cut out red, white, and blue areas from your old magazines. Cut these into small squares.
3. Once the painted cardboard is dry, begin gluing the small blue squares in the upper right corner. Add the red and white squares to form stripes lengthwise across the remainder of the cardboard.
4. After tying a knot in your piece of string glue to the back of your flag with your glue gun. (Remember to be careful with glue guns!)

Healthy Oil-Free Vegan Pancakes

This Mother's Day show your mother your affection and thankfulness by preparing this healthy and delicious pancake recipe for her in-bed breakfast!



Ingredients:

- ½ C. spelt flour
- 1 tsp baking powder (slightly heaped)
- Pinch of salt
- ½ C. + 1tsp non-dairy milk
- 1tsp chia seeds
- ½ tsp apple cider vinegar
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 or 2 tsp sugar (optional)

Instructions:

1. Begin by placing the milk and chia seeds in a bowl and stirring these up well.
2. Add the vinegar and vanilla to the milk with chia seeds and stir all these up again.
3. Add your flour, baking powder and salt (and sugar if you choose) in a separate bowl and mix so that they are all combined in well.
4. Pour your liquid ingredients into the bowl with the dry ingredients and stir these two together. Be cautious not to overmix! Stir until you cannot see any more dry flour. (A few lumps in this batter should not be of concern). Let the batter rest for 10 minutes.
5. Prepare a pan for the pancakes on medium heat. Cooking the pancakes in a good non-stick fry pan will eliminate the need for oil, however, if you decide to use a regular pan then adding a teaspoon or two of oil will help prevent the pancakes from sticking. Ensure that your pan is hot and proceed to spoon your pancake batter in. Make the pancakes so that they are approximately 4" in diameter. Turn the heat down to about halfway between medium and very low once you have placed your pancake batter in your pan. Bear in mind that the trick to making good pancakes is to not rush the process.
6. Wait until you start to see some bubbles starting to emerge from pancake tops. Once you see the bubbles emerge from them flip the pancakes over and proceed to let them cook for another two minutes.
7. Finally, remove from the heat and proceed to serve immediately. You can add some strawberries and coat with maple syrup for a final look presentation.

EDITOR'S REMARKS

It's official! Graduation is over, and our schoolwork is complete; summer break is finally upon us! It took months of diligence and perseverance to reach this point. Another year of learning, another year of laughter, and another year of dynamism has passed. Yet, another school year is only a few months away, so let's continue enjoying the moments before us. Whether you will visit your favorite ice cream shop, play in the pool, watch movies, read books, or listen to concerts, remember to have fun. The summer will pass rapidly, so focus on relishing every moment of it. See you in the fall!

Sarah