

# the TIDEWATER ACADEMY

## SMOKE SIGNAL

JANUARY 27, 2012



*Homecoming  
unites the past and the  
present.*

Unknown



### FROM RODNEY TAYLOR, HEAD OF SCHOOL

*Self-reverence, self-knowledge, self-control. These three alone lead to sovereign power. - Lord Alfred Tennyson*

By any measure, TA's Homecoming 2011-2012 was a success. From the inside we look at Homecoming week far beyond the most public aspects of it—the dances, the game, the parties.

What made this homecoming successful was the turnout of alumnae/i from a number of Tidewater Academy classes. The post-game Alumni Association party was simply delightful for all. The alumni presence at Homecoming ranged over several decades. Good food, good music, and good company were in abundance both last Friday night and Saturday night.

During halftime of the basketball game, it was an honor to recognize the previous Alumni of the Year recipients and to award Lisa Seward the much-coveted Alumnus of the Year Award. Lisa's commitment to this school is extraordinary, multifaceted, and selfless. She richly deserved the enthusiastic applause she received from the crowd.

As I welcomed the previous recipients of the award, I felt once again privileged to stand with them, knowing what they have, each and all, done for this school and this community. These alums are *not* those whose idea of "supporting the school" is merely paying annual tuition! Several of these

previous winners had already spent a long day cooking stew, and others among them would help out with the later alumni party. What a message to all who watched these previous winners congratulate Lisa: such as honor is earned with service and sacrifice.

Development Director Suzanne Renney and Alumni Coordinator Lynn Babish worked and planned for months to make Homecoming successful. The student dance on Saturday, organized by the SGA under the tutelage of Jason Elmore, along with our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Casino Night, capped off a week of fun and enjoyment. It is truly a highlight of the school year. Finally, our students and faculty helped to make this year's homecoming not just fun but also as smooth as possible. Gail Ford-Westbrook and her Lower School colleagues made our lower-school students' homecoming great fun. (If you were in our gym for Friday's pep rally, you know what I'm talking about!) Our Upper School students were terrific citizens during Homecoming week: they got into the homecoming spirit and did so in the most cordial ways. Whether it was "twin day", "pajama day" or "team day," our students had fun without disrupting their studies. We all had fun and enjoyed our students' school spirit. Our entire community deserves a lot of credit for the good spirit and tone of Homecoming Week.

## FROM THE EDITOR / LOWER SCHOOL DIRECTOR / DIRECTOR OF ACADEMIC AND COLLEGE COUNSELING

It is time to look to the future and the future of our school starts now! Monday, March 12, through Wednesday, March 14, will be "Bring a Friend to School" days. Your child will have the opportunity to bring a student who is interested in us to spend the day following a regular TA schedule. On Wednesday, March 14, we will hold our annual Spring Open House for prospective new families. These activities are for all students, preschool through twelfth grade.

We are asking you, our best public relations source, to help us scour the area for families who **NEED** us as a school of choice. Maybe these families don't even know yet that they need us, but you can help to convince them. Think about the things that make TA special--and talk those things up in your church, your civic organizations, or your neighborhood. We always say that if we get the families on campus, we can usually sell them on our little school. Your task, should you agree to accept it, is to help get new families on our campus. If you have questions about any of the things going on at school, so that you have plenty of information to use in your speeches to families who don't know us, please call me or Mr. Taylor, and we can fill you in on all the fantastic things that TA does.

Evidence of our community's support of our school is seen whenever you walk into the lower school building. The past four years have been wonderful, growing years for our school, but we can't rest on our laurels. In order to offer the most "state of the art" classes and programs we need to continue to add to our class rolls, to diversify our student body, and to become **The Academy**, one that is envied by our sister schools.

If you know of a family who would benefit from being a part of the Tidewater Academy family, please fill out the form on the last page of the *Smoke Signal* and we will send them an invitation to our Open House. Even better, you can invite and come with them to the event. Nothing can top the personal touch!

In the meantime, have a great weekend, and we will see you next week!

Gail Ford-Westbrook

### DECOMPRESSED PARENTING

*According to Jim Taylor, a professor at the University of San Francisco who specializes in child development and student achievement, children who are pressured too much to perform--and are overmatched by the challenges they face--will get bored and will be unsuccessful and often are unlikely to want to try again.*

*"We live in a culture in which many parents feel tremendous pressure to 'fast forward' their child's development. Unfortunately, in their efforts to speed up their children's development in school, sports, and the performing arts and other activities, parents are in danger of setting them up for failure and slowing rather than speeding up their development," Taylor says.*

*He adds that parents often don't objectively see their children's own skill level, or try to match their children to others to "keep up with the Joneses" or bolster their own ego by having their offspring succeed.*

*Leadership advisers might be in a position to pass along these tips from Taylor:*

- *Don't protect your own achievement needs on your children. Let them find their own reasons to participate and give a strong effort.*
- *Maintain a healthy perspective on why your children are involved in activities: to have fun, learn skills, and prepare for later life.*
- *Don't be seduced by a culture of achievement that causes you to feel anxious or inadequate if your children are not the best at something.*
- *Don't allow yourself to do anything for your children out of pressure to be seen as a "good" parent; being a good parent means doing what is best for your children.*
- *Get a life! If you have a life that is meaningful, fulfilling, and joyful, you won't become overinvested in your children's lives.*



Enjoying the video on our recent  
Limo ride!

# School Wide, Alumni and Development News

## **SMOKE SIGNAL**

The next issue of the *Smoke Signal* will be sent home on February 10<sup>th</sup>. If you have information to be included in the newsletter, please send it to [gfw@whro.net](mailto:gfw@whro.net).

## **CALENDAR CHANGE**

On the original calendar that was sent home at the beginning of the school year it was stated that school would be closed on Friday, March 30. That day will now be a regular school day. Instead, school will be closed on Friday, March 23, the day that Tidewater hosts the AVA Upper School Forensics Competition. Students who are participating in Forensics will be at school that day, and the other students will have the day off. The Warrior Zone will be closed also. Please plan accordingly.

## **HOMECOMING 2012**

Homecoming 2012 proved that our Warrior Pride is alive and hard to hide! Students celebrated Homecoming throughout the week, culminating in Friday night's festivities on January 20. Alumni enjoyed reconnecting and reminiscing with each other at the Alumni Social, and it was a packed house at the Homecoming basketball games versus Blessed Sacrament, held throughout the night.



Jeremy Seward and Crissy Francis were crowned Homecoming King and Queen by their peers during the halftime of the Varsity game.



The Alumni of the Year award was presented to Lisa Seward, TA '86 for her tireless devotion to the students of Tidewater Academy. Congratulations Lisa!



On Saturday night, students celebrated at the Homecoming dance, and TA's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Aces Up Casino Night was enjoyed by many at the Airfield 4H Center. Casino Night raised \$6000 for the general fund.

Homecoming 2012 was truly a success, and a time of celebration and pride for our school and our alumni!

# Campus News

## LOWER SCHOOL

### SECOND GRADE CELEBRATES

As a treat after reading the book, *The BFG*, by Roald Dahl, the second grade class had a BFG party on January 11<sup>th</sup>. They ate snozzcumpers and drank frobscottle as they watched the BFG movie. If you don't know what those are ... just ask a second grader.

As an extension activity to the book, the children wrote how they would have ended the story. The results of their work are hanging outside the second grade classroom. Come by and check them out if you get a chance.



## MIDDLE SCHOOL

### EGG DROP CHALLENGE

The 6th grade class participated in the Egg Drop Challenge. By applying the laws of physics and using principles of engineering they made a container that would hold an egg and hopefully not break when dropped from a height of 12 feet. They performed research by finding previous egg drop projects online and put together different ideas and used materials they gathered to create their own project. The object of the challenge was to make the lightest weight container that didn't break the egg. The overall winners were Ben and Zach. Cody and Mitchell's came in a close second but their project survived the highest fall. The only other egg to survive the fall was the project made by Sarah, Dacey and Ann Garland. They also received the most Creative Award. The Most Indestructible Award went to Dawson

and Keaton. The Most Practical award went to Tom, Sydni and Maddy. Lyric and Davis received the Best Tasting Project Award.



## UPPER SCHOOL

### RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

The NHS is sponsoring a Blood Drive on Friday, February 10. The drive will be held in the lower school multipurpose room from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental permission in some states), meet weight and height requirements (110 pounds or more, depending on their height), and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. Parents, grandparents, siblings and friends are encouraged to come and support this worthwhile event. Please bring your Red Cross blood donation card or some other form of positive ID when you come to donate. Anyone who attempts to give blood will be admitted free to the home basketball game being played that night.

Note: Student-athletes who will play basketball on the evening of the 10<sup>th</sup> will not be eligible to donate.



# Campus News, con't.



## **PRESCHOOL**

Preschool had loads of fun with the winter theme. They ice skated on paper plates, had snowball fights with fake snow and shoveled through the snow to locate and identify numbers and letters. Preschoolers also did a science experiment to identify the best way to melt an ice cube. Learning about winter has been a Nifty, Neat (for the letter of the week, N) experience.



# Athletic & Booster Club News

## ATHLETES IN ACTION

### FROM THE AD'S OFFICE

- The Varsity Girls Basketball team's record stands at 11-5 overall, 8-2 in the VCC. The Lady Warriors have been on quite a run, as they have won 6 of the last 8 games. Their balance in scoring and rebounding has led to this great streak. Stay on the winning track, girls! Our girls are currently ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in the Division III State Polls.
- Our JV Girls won their first game of the season this week when they defeated Windsor High School on Tuesday night. This group of young ladies keeps improving each game. Finish strong, JV Girls.
- Our Varsity Boys Basketball team currently has a record of 7-2 in the VCC and 13-5 overall heading into tonight's game at Steward. This group is currently ranked #6 in the VIS Division III State polls.
- The Junior Varsity Boys have a record of 8-1 in the VCC and 10-5 overall. Keep cheering them on as they continue their run toward a VCC Championship.
- The Junior Boys Basketball team's record stands at 4-1 after their exciting loss on Friday to BSH. This group, under the direction of Coach Paul Rogers, III, has gotten off to a great start.
- Please remember that the Junior Basketball Tournament will be held on Saturday, February 4. The tournament begins at 10:00 am with four teams competing for a championship. Come out and watch the future of TA Boys Basketball.
- Winter Sports pictures will be taken on Friday, February 3, for all winter sports teams.
- Spring Sports Physicals - physicals are needed before students may begin practice for spring sports.

Walter Westbrook





Your TA Warriors in the JMU Gymnasium

\_\_\_ Please send an Open House invitation to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Names and Ages of Children: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Please send an Open House invitation to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Names and Ages of Children: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reader Response Card**

**January 27, 2012**

I am returning:

\_\_\_ Campbell's soup labels

\_\_\_ Big G Cereal Box tops

\_\_\_ I would like to receive the Smoke Signal via email. Here is my email address:

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

