

The Torch



August- September 2011

The Mighty Mac By Jordan Bustos and Nathan Arend

Beep...beep...beep! Alarms went off at 3:00 a.m. on Monday, September 5th as students prepared to board the bus for the trip to the Mackinac Bridge that connects the upper peninsula to the lower peninsula of Michigan. The trip there took four hours and thirty minutes. It was a quiet ride as most people slept on the way up.

Upon arrival at Mackinaw City, the students crossed the 5 mile span to St. Ignace on the bus to begin the bridge walk. Labor Day is the only day each year that one can cross the Mighty Mac on foot.

People from all over the world were excited to begin their journey across 1,024,500 tons of concrete and steel. "It was cool to walk and then someone told me that the Great Lakes were on both sides. I had never really seen the Great Lakes, so I had a great time." Wyatt Hise said enthusiastically. The students really enjoyed the walk. Lunch in the park was a welcome break after the long trek on such a cool day.

Students were allowed to walk around town, go into the stores and take a look. On the way home, the bus made a stop at Hartwick Pines State Park in Grayling. There the group played and just hung out at the historic lumber camp after the long day of exploring. Mr. Caswell grilled up some really wonderful burgers that were seasoned to perfection. Once everyone had eaten, they packed up to finish the trip home. It was a great day and everybody had a good time.

****The Torch is going paperless. Email us at Imolinar@springvale.us to add you to our address book. The Torch will also be available at springvale.us under our Torch Newsletter tab.**

New at SVA

Look Down Below!

By Jordan O' Neal
and Christian Perry

One of the new additions to the school this year is the carpet. A person will notice it as soon as they enter school building. It all began with Sister Mary Patchen, who was the driving force. She helped raise the money to pay for the new carpet. Over the summer, she noticed how much the carpet was falling apart and there was no money to replace it. She then came up with an idea to raise funds through Facebook. She posted for donations on the site, and within two weeks, she raised all the money needed, which was about \$12,500!

The carpet was removed and replaced about a week before school started. Just in time for students to start the school year with a nice, clean, blue carpet. But the change doesn't stop there. During this year's winter break, the library, office, and computer lab will get the new carpet installed as well. Mr. Caswell, Director and Principal of SVA, was pleased with this change. "I love how people will come together and meet the needs of the school once they become aware of them. We mentioned the need of carpet and within a few weeks we raised enough money necessary to accomplish that," says Caswell. Out with the old, in with the new!

"It's nice to know that people care enough about SVA that they would donate money to improve the look of our school," says Sophomore Amanda Miller.



Hot Circuits

By Jordan O'Neal

SVA's computer lab has some hot circuits! This year the school received a generous endowment from Macalester College located in Saint Paul, MN. New to the SVA network are 10 computers with flat screen monitors. This allowed every teacher and office personnel to receive a flat screen monitor.

Macalester College gives old CPU's, monitors and other equipment to various non-profit organizations, which is on a first come first serve basis on a Information Technology Services (ITS) donation waiting list. This is part of their Community Outreach Program. SVA has been receiving contributions from Macalester College for about four years. A special thanks is given to them for continuing to support SVA so generously.



Aloha!

By Mia Cowan and
Jonathan Avelar

"Ohana means family." On Sunday, August 28th, Spring Vale gathered like family at a luau themed welcome banquet. Those truly in Hawaiian spirit wore grass skirts and leis. The banquet's purpose was to help introduce students to the 2011-2012 school year. Students, staff and their families congregated at the fire pit for food and games.

The meal was prepared by Head Cook, Aaron Coulson and Assistant Cook, Manny Molinar. The feast included mouth watering chicken, onion, and pineapple kabobs, and for dessert everyone enjoyed the moist upside down pineapple cake adorned with glazed cherries. "The food was delish!" commented senior Breanna Henderson.

When students were done eating, Mr. and Mrs. Marlin led out team building games. For one of the games the guys and gals all had to form two lines and hold hands. The challenge was to fit their individual bodies into a hula-hoop one by one without letting go of one another's hand. The first group to get the hula-hoop through from the beginning to the end of the line won! The games were great icebreakers for new and returning student to get better acquainted.

The evening ended as seniors cleaned and picked up to make the area once again its original setting. After an event so welcoming, SVA students, staff and families look forward to more fun filled activities for the rest of the year.



Insulation Sensation

By Evan Schmitz

What did you do this summer? Summer is often a time for fun, family and fellowship, but for James Patchen, Jeff Smith, Jim Baker, Ken and Karen Riggs and other volunteers it was a very productive one at the SVA chapel. Spring Vale truly appreciates the time, effort, and energy invested in this project.

For the past few years, the Spring Vale Energy Team, led by 1957 alumnus, David Burrell, has been hard at work to make the campus more energy efficient. In the summer of 2009, the main school building was fitted with an outer layer of insulation and siding. Last summer the same energy efficient face-lift was given to the girls' and boys' dorms. This summer the chapel was treated and new outer entrance doors were added. There are plans to continue with the quadplex staff housing in the near future.

These projects have reduced the school's total energy costs by a monumental 40 percent, and the school has not needed to pay a nickel for the additions, as each step has been funded by SVA Alumni and others who support the ministry of Spring Vale. "It just thrills my soul to see them investing in our campus for the long term," says Executive Director and Principal Mark Caswell.

A special thanks to all who have contributed time or finances to make SVA a better, greener place!



Eating Up the Word

By Monica Carbajal

It's not typical to have Bible reading during meal time, but this year at SVA Pastor Tim has changed the students' "eating habits." On August 22nd, the first day of classes, Pastor Tim started a Bible reading group that continues to meet every day in the cafeteria. Pastor Tim invites any student or staff to join him at lunch to read through the New Testament.

Pastor Tim decided to form a Bible circle to help emphasize the importance of having "God's Word in our hearts because it helps us grow in wisdom and knowledge." Pastor Tim feels blessed by this opportunity to get closer to God while reading through the Bible with students, and looks forward to lunch time.

Carrie Nienhuis, a new sophomore student who is attending the group, said "I am in the Old Testament Survey class already. If I read the New Testament at lunch, I can finish reading through the whole Bible by the end of the school year." She also joined to hear different perspectives and read the bible with others.

In Luke 6:21a, Jesus preached, "Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied." May the Lord fill the students with enlightenment and knowledge as they eat of the spiritual food.

New to the SVA staff team!



George Boyles,
Business Manager



Manny Molinar,
Assistant Cook



Bruce Noble,
Maintenance Manager



Jill Arend,
Office Manager

New at SVA Cont.

Girls with a Vision

By Molly Nienhuis
and Stefanie Kendrick

One day Jearim Arteaga, the Girls' Assistant Dean, walked into the Family Christian Bookstore to shop around and left with a vision. She came back to the dorm and shared with the girls her idea of sponsoring a child through World Vision. The girls loved her idea, and made it a dorm goal to sponsor a boy from Zimbabwe named Howard Kamonere, who was about to become ineligible for sponsorship.

Since January 2011, the girls in the dorm have worked together to give \$35 a month to World Vision so they can help provide for Howard's basic needs, such as food, education, and medical care. World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to improving the lives of children and their families across the world through helping to eliminate the causes of poverty and injustice. By giving to this cause, the girls' dorm is helping Howard and his community, which is severely affected by HIV and AIDS, to become self-sustaining and come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

If you would like to find out more information, or if you are interested in sponsoring a child, visit World Vision's website at www.worldvision.org. Your prayers for this organization and for Howard would also be greatly appreciated.



Love in a Backpack

By Hannah Ashcraft

It is always exciting at the beginning of the school year to get brand new school supplies. This year started out differently for some SVA students. Instead of getting new school supplies they were giving them away.

Scott Fischer, Boys' Dean, was inspired with the idea from the Saginaw COG7 to donate backpacks filled with school supplies and treats to local VBS children. Mr. Fischer felt, "It was a natural fit for our local church since we had begun an outreach targeting local trailer park and apartment communities near the Owosso church with our VBS program. The timing was perfect to help these people."

Money and supplies were donated by the Owosso church members and One Foundation. Once collected, Mrs. Marlin, Becki Fischer, and Pastor Tim organized student volunteers for the job of filling the backpacks with the brand new school supplies the kids would need for their school year.

On Saturday, August 27, 2011 SVA students had a vespers service held on the slope in front of the cafeteria. The children and some parents were picked up in SVA's school bus. As the children arrived each participant was given a card with the name of an animal on it. Students walked around making the sound that animal would make until they found a child making the same animal sound to pair each child with a teen partner. The children were very excited to receive their new backpacks full of supplies and eagerly took inventory of the contents.

During the backpack giveaway Mr. Fischer gave a gospel illustration using a backpack filled with rocks to represent the burden of sin we all carry. Jacob Schmitz started off with the backpack on his back and Mr. Fischer started adding more and more bricks until Jacob was unable to hold the backpack anymore. Jordan Bustos stepped in to illustrate what Jesus does when we ask him to forgive our sins and that is exactly what Jordan did. He carried the rock-filled backpack which freed Jacob to run and jump around freely.

Kelen Caswell and Azael Garcia led in singing worship songs followed by VBS songs led by Mr. Noble. Pastor Tim said a special prayer for the children and their upcoming school year. Everyone was invited to stay for the outdoor movie "Bolt" which was set up by Taylor Morrow. Popcorn and pop was donated by SVA senate and served to all. One student commented, "I am really glad that I got to participate in this event, it made me realize how much I have compared to others in this world. I would love to do this again. It was a very touching experience."

New Flames



Name: Noah Marlin
Hometown: Owosso, MI
7th Grade



Name: Abigail Molinar
Hometown: Owosso, MI
7th Grade



Name: Jacob Schmitz
Hometown: Perry, MI
7th Grade



Name: Hannah Ashcraft
Hometown: Owosso, MI
9th Grade



Name Jonathan Avelar
Hometown: Fort Wayne, IN
9th Grade



Name: Lauren Caswell
Hometown: Owosso, MI
9th Grade



Name: Colby Hinds
Hometown: Owosso, MI
9th Grade



Name: Matthew Miller
Hometown: Buffalo, MO
9th Grade



Name: Carrie Nienhuis
Hometown: Lawton, North Dakota
10th Grade



Name: Michael Carbajal
Hometown: Maple Wood, MN
11th grade



Name: Wyatt Hise
Hometown: Eugene, OR
11th Grade



Name: John Mosqueda
Hometown: Lebanon, OR
11th Grade



Name: Carlos Robles
Hometown: York, PA
11th Grade



Name: Mia Cowan
Hometown: Sarasota, FL
12th Grade



Name: Monica Carbajal
Hometown: Maple Wood, MN
12th Grade



Name: Breanna Henderson
Hometown: Harrisburg, OR
12th Grade

A Super Sabbath

By Molly Nienhuis

Super Sabbath is an annual event for churches from the surrounding area to join together to celebrate the Sabbath and worship God. Spring Vale students have the privilege to attend Michigan Super Sabbath each year and participate in the services. Super Sabbath was held on September 24, at the Owosso Church of the Nazarene—a whopping four miles from the Spring Vale campus!

The focus of this year's Super Sabbath was the same as this summer's COG 7 General Conference theme, "Amazing Love." The morning service began with praise and worship, followed by a message recounting the history of the King James Bible brought by Pastor Larry Rice, from Syracuse, Indiana. He talked about how wonderfully preserved the KJV has been. This year marks the 400th anniversary of the translation of the King James Bible!

After Pastor Rice's message, church members praised God in songs of worship, and Owosso's own Pastor Max Morrow gave the second message of the day. The subject of his sermon was "God's amazing love that heals." All were reminded by Pastor Morrow that once we receive God's love, we must become channels of His love and bring it to other people. Only then will the Body of Christ, and the rest of the world, experience the healing and revival that it longs for.

Families were asked to bring their own lunches that were shared in the fellowship hall of the church. Students had the opportunity to fellowship with families and youth from all over the state. Those in attendance were blessed by many specials that were given during the afternoon service. "The specials that were shared really touched my heart, and really had a deeper meaning," said senior Stefanie Kendrick.

The final message was presented by Pastor Samuel Holland, from Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. He gave an overview of all of the messages from this year's General Conference theme of God's "Amazing Love." The last activity of the day was a skate night that SVA had organized.

In all, it was a wonderful day filled with fellowship, worship, and insight into God's Word. How great are the blessings we receive when God's people gather together!

Y'all Ready For Revivin'?

By Stefanie Kendrick

The Spring Vale community was pleased to welcome back Brother Jake Cartwright to the Owosso church for this year's summer revival services, which took place September 8-10, 2011. The congregation was really encouraged and challenged by this energetic southern preacher when he shared a series of messages last spring. Once again, students were blessed and revived by the message that God put on his heart to share.

Brother Cartwright's lively personality, booming voice, and strong convictions grabbed hold of the audience's attention. "It's impossible to fall asleep when he's talking because he's so enthusiastic and exciting to listen to. He's my favorite revivals speaker," said Senior Amber Noble.

Thursday night, Cartwright focused on the topic of vows, and how we need to take our promises more seriously. Rather than making bargains with God and telling Him what we'll do for Him, we should be listening for His call for our lives and following that instead. On Friday, he challenged the congregation to have a permanent change in their lives—not living in defeat, but with the same passion we had for the Lord as when we came out of the water of baptism. Many people stayed after the message ended to pray and recommit their lives to God. Sabbath morning, Cartwright wrapped up his thoughts by encouraging all to stay strong in our commitments because God believes in His children and will help us by giving us an intense desire to stop doing what is displeasing to Him. Even when everything seems to be going wrong, like Job in the Bible, we should worship Him in every circumstance saying, "Blessed be the name of the Lord."

Jake Cartwright hasn't always been so passionate about the Lord. God called him from a life of alcohol and drugs seven years ago into ministry, to be used for His glory. Before finding the Church of God (7th Day), Cartwright pastored Freewill Baptist churches in Hapfield and Hector, Arkansas. Early this summer, Cartwright moved to Milan, Michigan with his wife and three sons, and is now waiting for God's direction there. He and his family have been meeting in their own home for church on Sabbath and are hosting Bible studies for people who want to come and fellowship. Cartwright also speaks at churches whenever asked, such as the Owosso church. "I have never seen hearts so tender in all my years of ministry than I have at Spring Vale," Cartwright said. Praise God for Brother Cartwright sharing the testimony of his heart.





“Fan into flame the gift of God which is in you.”

2 Timothy 1:6

Goal!

By Mia Cowan

One of this season’s starters made a good goal for himself. “This year I want to try my hardest to be a vital teammate,” said Junior, Evan Schmitz.

“It’s not whether you get knocked down; it’s whether you get back up,” said famous football coach, Vince Lombardi. Such a statement is true for the SVA soccer athletes. Although they began the season on the wrong foot, the guys kept their heads up! With spirits raised, they poured on the steam and won their second game, 5-2 against MMCHE. The Soccer Flames continue "pushing forward" for a victorious season!

The team of hard playing guys are Seniors, Jonathan Egedus, Jordan O’Neal, Miguel Murillo, Nate Arend, Mathew Rowden, Jordan Bustos, & Isaac Molinar, Juniors, Carlos Robles, Evan Schmitz, Michael Carbajal, J.R. Lewis, & Wyatt Hise, sophomore, Doug Camero, Freshmen Kris Acosta, Matt Miller, Colby Hinds, Adam Slawson, Kyle Schmitz, & Ben Noble, junior high students Noah Marlin, Abel Molinar, Ben Arend, & Jacob Schmitz. The 2011 Soccer Flames are coached by Kelen Caswell, and Assistant Coach Azael Garcia, 2011 graduate. Many fans are cheering them on to the BEST of blessings for their future games! Go Flames!

Season Record: 5 wins-5 losses-2 tied games.

Victorious Volleyballers

By Breanna Henderson

JV Volleyball is a training team. Some of the players have not ever played a formal game of volleyball, and others have a little more experience. The practices are spent honing mostly basic skills as well as teaching the JV Lady Flames to work together as a team. Coach Tracy Kendrick and Assistant Coach Azalie Belnavis have been very patient, kind and committed to this team.

The 2011 JV team consists of Seniors, Monica Carbajal and Breanna Henderson, Junior, Katie Nienhuis, and Junior High students, Olivia Arend, Cailin O’Neal, and Abby Molinar. The Captains of the Junior Varsity Volleyball team are Freshman, Hadassah Albert and Sophomore, Carrie Nienhuis.

This year’s Varsity Volleyball Coach is Kevin Caswell and assisting him is Jessica Caswell. This year’s captains are Seniors Molly Nienhuis, Stefanie Kendrick, and Amber Noble. Juniors, Katie Nienhuis, Cathryn Caswell, Freshmen, Alexandria Albert and Lauren Caswell are the athletes that make up the team. After a rugged start , the girls have stayed strong and persevered.

It’s the Lady Flames goal to stay victorious through wins and losses. Senior Stefanie Kendrick encourages her team mates to “never lose focus and don’t forget to have fun because that is what makes you win the game”.

JV Season Record: 3 wins-10 losses

Varsity Season Record: 9 wins-7 losses



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Christian Perry

Evan Schmitz

Torch Advisor

Jearim Arteaga

Upcoming Birthdays

October

1 Adam Slawson

2 Carrie Nienhuis

15 Abigail Molinar

15 Miguel Murillo

31 Isaac Coulson

November

5 Molly Nienhuis

22 Bruce Noble

December

3 Mariah O'Neal

5 Kyle Schmitz

11 Alexandria Albert

16 Jacob Schmitz

19 Isaac Molinar

25 Carlos Robles