

August-October 2010

Spring Vale Adds Seventh and Eighth Grade

By Rachel Klopfenstein

This year Spring Vale Academy's student body will consist of seventh through twelfth graders. Although, there have been many changes to the normal schedules, it is a joy for the students and staff to welcome our newcomers. This year's seventh graders are Abel Molinar, Cailin O'Neal, and Mariah O'Neal. The eighth graders are Alexandria Albert, Hadassah Albert, Ben Noble, Kyle Schmitz, and Adam Slawson.

Mrs. Marlin, the assistant principal, says some of the reasons for the change were to increase the attendance and encourage younger students to choose Spring Vale as their alternative school before they are committed to a different school. Also, attending Spring Vale Academy during the junior high years will give these young students a strong Christian, as well as academic, foundation for their high school years. The curriculum which will be used is A Beka Christian studies which places a strong emphasis on the Bible and Christian values.

Mrs. Pam Noble, who has previously taught ninth and tenth grade English and Bible, is taking on the main responsibility for the seventh and eighth grade classes. She stated, "Even though it's not always easy, I truly do enjoy teaching these young students and providing them with information they will use in their future." Additionally, Mr. Duane Peterson will be teaching Junior High Science and Pre-Algebra. Those eighth grade students excelling in math will join in the high school Algebra I class taught by Miss Karen Janetzke.



Back Row L to R: Hadassah Albert, Abel Molinar, Ben Noble, and Adam Slawson.

Front Row L to R: Kyle Schmitz, Alexandria Albert, Mariah O'Neal, and Cailin O'Neal.

Welcome Barbecue

By Christian Perry

Howdy partner! Welcome to Spring Vale Academy! August 22, 2010 was SVA's annual Welcome Banquet. Everyone dressed up in their best western gear as they prepared to eat great food and get to know some new people. "It was fun getting to see everyone," said senior Zac Patchen.

Before the meal was served, the students played some unity building games. The first game was called "Chicken in a Henhouse" led by Arlene Caswell, and the second one was "The Caterpillar Game" led by Pastor Tim. Both games were goofy but fun.

Everyone enjoyed the great barbecued beef sandwiches, corn, salad & barbecued beans while listening to the *Woody's Roundup* soundtrack from *Toy Story*.

To top the night off, we had a hay ride, which was fun as well. Unfortunately for the seniors, they had to clean up the mess, but they seemed to have a lot of fun as they worked together. They had their own special hay ride at the end.

Overall, it was a great night, and everyone had a wonderful time.



Jordan Bustos (left) and Miguel Murillo (right) enjoying the great food.

Labor Day Tubing

By Azalie Belnavis



L to R: Jearim Arteaga (staff), Sydney Candelario, and Loren Miller (staff) placidly floating downriver.

This year, the Spring Vale Student body took a trip to White's Canoe Livery and went tubing on the Rifle River. The day started out chilly, but the students were raring to go tubing down the river followed by some fun on the mudslides.

Following the tubing, the staff and students went to a nearby park with a beach. The weather changed, and it became sunny. The students were relieved when the warm sun dried them off. The park had a beautiful nature trail where everyone could walk with their friends and enjoy God's wonderful creation. Some students went to the beach and played volleyball or soccer. Mr. Tracy Kendrick grilled delicious hamburgers and hot dogs for the students' dinner.

When all of the excitement was over, everyone packed their wet clothes, hopped onto the bus, and headed back to the cozy campus of Spring Vale Academy. This Labor Day activity was a definite hit with the students.

Welcome Miss Nease

By Miguel Murillo

Spring Vale is happy to welcome Miss Julie Nease from Lodi, California as our newest staff member. Miss Nease came to work at SVA because she felt that the Lord sent her here. She is serving as one of the assistant girls' deans, as well as teaching computers and supervising study halls. Miss Nease graduated from SVA in 1992, and she loves being here now as a staff member. Her advise to students is, "Savor your time here because it ends quickly. Each day is different, and it will never repeat itself."



Saturday Night Activities

By Christian Perry

After sundown on Sabbath, the students at SVA get ready for the Saturday Night Activity (SNA). They enjoy some cool activities both on and off campus. One of the first activities was going to Fun Tyme, where the students could play arcade games, mini golf, and ride go-karts. Senior Ariana Fauth remarked, "Fun Tyme was fun! Golfing with Josh and Elsa Smith, Moises Pedraza, and Christian Perry was an interesting experience. The best part about riding the go-karts was T-boning Nate Arend and having him jokingly yell at me. I laughed so hard!"



Ariana Fauth and Christian Perry try out the Dance Dance Revolution at Fun Tyme.

Another favorite is the annual Junk Scramble which took place in the gym on September 4th. The students and church members are divided into four teams and are assigned a color - red, orange, purple, and green, and they bring as many different items from their rooms as they can carry to the gym for their team's "junk pile." Each team decides who their captain will be. This is an important job because only the captain can take the required item to the center of the gym when the event host calls for it. This year's host was Mr. Jonathan Albert. The first captain to arrive to the host with the required item received a point. Sometimes instead of an item being called for, there was a challenge which had to be performed by one member from each team. The individual who successfully met the challenge first won extra points for their team. Some of the challenges included a Coca-Cola chugging contest, arm wrestling, the best joke, and a 3-lap race. The contest ended with the green team as the winners. Senior Emily Curran, a member of the winning team, commented, "The Junk Scramble was a fun Saturday Night Activity! We got to include the community too, so that added to the experience. Go green team!"



Cory Caswell (alumni) and Evan Schmitz arm wrestle during the Junk Scramble while (L to R) Kyle Schmitz, Alexandria Albert, Mathew Rowden, and Mr. Albert look on.

On September 11th, we traveled off campus again and went roller-skating. Spring Vale had the whole rink to themselves with Christian music provided by a DJ. Everyone grabbed their roller-skates and rollerblades and had some fun. Even though it was a challenge for those who had never roller-skated before, everyone had a great time visiting and skating. Sophomore Evan Schmitz says, "Skating was lots of fun, and I enjoyed the uplifting Christian music!"

As you can see, we have tons of fun here at SVA.

Dare to Be Rare

By Emily Curran & Rachel Klopfenstein

“Dare to be Rare” was the theme for the 2010 Girls’ Retreat which was held at Sleepy Bear Resort in Lake Ann, Michigan. The girls were blessed to be able to hear from three different speakers, Liz Fischer, Tracy Schmitz, and a special guest named Devon, who is currently a pastor at a Methodist church near the resort. They spoke to the girls about their uniqueness and their commonalities and how both aspects bring us together as a group but also set us apart in many ways. “I thought retreats were really relaxing and fun. I liked the guest speaker Devon, she was really cool!” said freshman Amanda Miller. Throughout the time away, the girls were challenged to be rare by standing out in a crowd and going against the ways of this world by professing and living their faith daily.



L to R: Emily Noel, Cailin O’Neal and Hadassah Albert on the lake.

Throughout the retreat, the girls were able to be active and interact with each other through organized games and activities. Behind the resort was a beautiful lake where the girls were able to kayak and canoe during the day. “I really enjoyed kayaking across the lake! It was majestic. I liked retreats this year a lot,” exclaimed senior Sarah Baker. The girls were also blessed to have Scott Fischer and his wonderful cooking skills tag along.

With all the fun events, retreat seemed to end just as fast as it had begun. However, the mood was lightened by random stops on the way home, where the girls were able to see Michigan’s famous sand dunes and the beautiful shores of Lake Michigan. Let’s all dare to be rare!

Dare to Be Well Done!

By Jordan O’Neal & Christian Perry

“Dare to be... Well done!” That was the theme for this year’s Guys’ Retreat on October 17-19th. This year all the guys stayed on campus and camped out in the rec center. The special game that carried on throughout the whole retreat was the World Cup tournament, which was a 3-man game of soccer played on a huge “field” made of tape and complete with goals and walls, which were just mattresses. All the guys were randomly divided into 8 teams, and each team was their own country. The whole tournament involved us playing on our hands and knees, and the soccer ball was really small! Most of the players wore kneepads, but there were still some scarred knees. After hours of intensity, the winner of the tournament was team Germany, which consisted of seniors Zac Patchen and Steven Roman, and junior Christian Perry.



Two teams face off in the fun but brutal soccer tournament.

Pastor Tim Hinds and Mr. Jon Arend brought us messages about our theme. We were told that “dare to be well done” related to God’s pronouncement to those who are faithful, “Well done, good and faithful servant.” As Christian young men we need to strive to be faithful in all that we do.

Besides the tournament, we also played football, capture the flag, and watched some movies. Steven Roman received the MVP award for being the most positive and encouraging to everyone. Steven said, “Boys’ Retreat was a great time even though our knees were torn up in soccer. Pastor Tim and Mr. Arend brought us a good message.”

Overall, Guys’ Retreat was amazing, and everyone had a great time. A great big thanks to Pastor Tim, his wife Lisa, and Loren Miller for providing the campers with wonderful meals and snacks.

Harvest Hike

By Azalie Belnavis & Miguel Murillo

“Let's take a hike!” The long-awaited Harvest Hike was on the evening of October 2nd. After the traditional hike through field and woods at night, the students and staff arrived at the fireside where the group played a couple of games and sang a few fun motion songs. We were then blessed with a short devotion by Jonathan Albert. This year's Harvest Hike King and Queen were Douglas Camero and Katie Nienhuis.



Harvest Hike Queen Katie Nienhuis and King Douglas Camero.

The hot food and cocoa were gratefully enjoyed by everyone. The meal was followed by awards given out to the students by Senate. All of the awards had something to do with hiking. The Curious Climber awards were given to Mariah O'Neal and Moises Pedraza, the awards for Pretty Pedestrian were given to Taylor Morrow and Jaanai Deltoro, the Hunky Hiker awards were given to Devin Caswell and Molly Nienhuis, and the Jolly Jogger award was given to Jonathan “Edgy” Edgedus.

When the students were done hiking, they all went down to the Rec. Center and finished the night with a movie. This year's Harvest Hike was a night never to be forgotten.

TORCH STAFF

Azalie Belnavis
 Emily Curran
 Rachel Klopfenstein
 Miguel Murillo
 Jordan O'Neal
 Christian Perry
 Joyce Olds, Advisor

BIRTHDAYS

August

Tim Hinds 2
 Mathew Rowden 3
 Jordan Bustos 7
 Evan Schmitz 12
 Joyce Olds 17
 Judith Aguilar 18
 Amy Marlin 22

September

Jearim Arteaga 2
 Doug Camero 5
 Abel Molinar 7
 Azael Garcia 10
 John Marlin 14
 Amanda Miller 14
 Maria Peterson 14
 Taylor Morrow 22
 Hadassah Albert 26

October

Missy Smith 1
 Adam Slawson 1
 Sarah Chesney 8
 Steven Roman 15
 Miguel Murillo 15
 Sydney Candelario 17
 Isaac Coulson 31

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We would like to thank the energy team for their dedication and hard work in insulating the guys' and girls' dorms this summer! May God bless you!

Future Events

Harvest of Thanks	Nov. 14
Thanksgiving Break	Nov. 24-28
First Semester Exams	Dec. 13-14
Winter Break	Dec. 15-Jan. 9
Dorms Open	Jan. 9
3rd Qtr. Begins	Jan. 10
Winter Sports Pics	Jan. 18