

Newsletter

GSAA LINK

Gem State Adventist Academy

May 2017



Engaging in **SERVICE**
Training for **LEADERSHIP**
Preparing for **ETERNITY**

From the principal's desk



By **Marvin Thorman**
GSAA Principal

Seventh-day Adventist education, our main avenue to prepare today's youth for tomorrow's leadership, is in a crisis. Many potential leaders either cannot afford the cost or do not see the value of an Adventist education. I believe that there are two main causes. One, our schools have many times lost sight of their unique role. Why pay thousands for a product that is no different than what is provided free in our own neighborhoods? Two, the cost to operate quality schools makes tuition prohibitive for many families.

I believe that GSAA does offer a unique Seventh-day Adventist product which we are in the process of refining. I also believe that the combined available resources of our church body could make GSAA a possibility for every one of our youth.

When the Israelites were asked to give materials to build the sanctuary, they gave so liberally that Moses had to stop them from giving. That experience could be ours today if we all gave what we could. Please prayerfully consider what you can give to make Adventist education available to the youth of our church.



Photo by Tatyana Wahlman GSAA

MATCHING CHALLENGE



Up to \$75,000!

FOR GSAA GENERAL OPERATION

**Double your impact
with a dollar for dollar match
and help us raise the full amount
by June 30!**



Please make checks payable to Gem State Adventist Academy indicated for **Matching Donation**.
Our address: 16115 S. Montana Ave., Caldwell, ID 83607

For more information and credit card donations, contact GSAA Finance Office (208)459-1627





Photos by Tatyana Wahlman GSAA

GSAA Academy Day 2017

By Portia Kluchesky
Class of 2020

Academy Day is the opportunity for many young people from other schools to come visit our

school. Forty-two visitors joined us on April 24th as we began chapel with music, followed by a wonderful worship talk by Aurora Gault. Next, the visiting students enjoyed various classes and meeting new

teachers. After Knowledge Bowl, we had the opportunity to fellowship with all the possible new students while eating delicious falafels. During the afternoon, groups went around

to different areas of the school. I performed with Ripples the whole afternoon, so my arms were exhausted! I can't wait for future Academy Days when new people get to experience new things.

More Than A Team

By Hope Bollin
Class of 2019



Basketball this season was so much fun! We got to go to Winter Tournament and Friendship Tournament besides all the games we played locally. Going into the season, I wasn't quite sure what to expect. I didn't know the people on my team very well and I didn't know if we would be any good.

Once the season started, I knew I had made a good choice of signing up for basketball. It was an awesome learning experience for the whole team in so many ways. Yeah, we learned more about basketball, but we also learned things about each other. We grew closer as a team, and that is one of my favorite things about sports.

Basketball is of course fun to play but the team is what you remember. I don't think that I'll remember the games that we won and lost; I'll remember the girls that were on my team and my coaches that pushed me to do my best. Sports are more than winning, your team becomes your family, your support group and your friends for life!

Photo by Glen Wahlman GSAA



Gem State Harmony

Photo by Tatyana Wahlman GSAA

By Emma Echelmeier
Class of 2020

My favorite part of GSAA is the multiple music classes available to the student body. Miss Simmons directs choir, band, and two bell ensemble groups, including Ripples and Soundwave. The music program has grown significantly this past school year.

The choir now has an abundant amount of members and the band plays exciting upbeat songs including Disney favorites. In addition, there is a select choir group called Capella. We all continue to enjoy the performances and concerts by these groups.

I am astoundingly grateful for Miss Simmons and the classmates who have contributed to our make our music program great this year!

Touching Hearts With Love and Care

GSAA Students and Staff Participated at AMEN Boise Clinic



The clinic offered free dental, medical, and vision care to anyone in the area who was in need for three days. Each day we checked in and went to various sections of the clinic to help with registration, organization, security, and even passing out snacks and water to the patients.

Whether it was through a conversation with a grateful patient, getting to know other volunteers, or simply observing as over 1300 patients got free medical, dental, and vision care, each volunteer got the opportunity to watch the love of God move in our very own community.

- Aurora Gault, Grade 11

The AMEN clinic was full of laughs, and fun, but most importantly it brought all of us from GSAA together to help others and serve Jesus.

- Rodney Bell Grade 10

I really enjoyed helping at the AMEN clinic because it was such a fun way to spread Jesus' love.

- Susi Aguirre, Grade 10

It was a very positive and new experience for me.

- Ethan Tagalog, Grade 11

I learned so much from volunteering at the food bank, from knowing others to experiencing what it's like to help those in need.

- Toby Reeve, Grade 9

I got to help escort people from registration to either medical, dental or vision.

- Zoe Smith, Grade 9

It was a chance to put some skills we have to use and explore more in-depth the ways we can help our community.

- Anna Stone, Grade 9

You never know how much a little thing can do for someone or mean to someone.

- Sierra Bartlett, Grade 9

We helped to make a difference.

- Karalee Sutton, Grade 9



Photo by Glen Wahlman GSAA

Elena and Ally are serving lunch to volunteers.



Photo by Glen Wahlman, GSAA

Sandy assists dentists in instruments transfer to the sanitation station.



Photo by Glen Wahlman GSAA

Gem State Adventist Academy students and staff at Adventist Medical Evangelism Network (AMEN)

Photo by Glen Wahlman GSAA





GSAA Mission Trip team and their little helpers at the end of the busy week.

Tears of Healing

Photos by Geoff Starr, GSAA

By Sandy Jensen
Class of 2017

During spring break, a group of enterprising students and their fearless sponsors embarked on a life-changing adventure. We went on a mission trip to Fiji.

The experience was one I will never forget. The people on the island of Viwa opened up their homes and hearts to us. In Fiji, I learned once again to open my heart - to let others love me and let myself love.

We helped build a church, hauling sand from a beach to the work site. It was monotonous and discouraging at times, but our spirits

were always uplifted by the helping hands of adorable children. And even though we did not complete the church, the villagers told us we saved them over three months of work. It was heart-warming to know we had made a difference.

Many villagers came to the beach to wish us well on the day we left. My heart burst with gratitude and love. As Viwa disappeared, swallowed by the waves, tears flowed freely down my face, tears of healing. Fiji healed my heart and from that I'll be forever thankful.



Sandy Jensen, class of 2017, and her new Fijian friends.
Photo provided by Sandy Jensen



Jaime Christensen, class of 2019, holds one of the children on Viwa, Fiji.



Ian Griffith, a GSAA alumnus, helps lay the iron bar for the church floor.



Fiji Mission Trip participants have sundown worship on the beach.

Place where memories meet together

GSAA Alumni Weekend. March 31-April 2

By Shelley Hauser

Class of 1967

What has been so important throughout the past half century since I started my sophomore year at Gem State are my lasting friendships with both peers and faculty. I recently told my co-workers at Oregon State Hospital I was going to my 50th high school reunion and that my 89 year old principal was coming, too! Everyone thought it was wonderful but seemed surprised that our friendships were still so strong. I explained that when you live in a dorm with the same bunch of friends for several years you get pretty bonded. And that is what I appreciate most about GSA--people who have gone through life with me and plan to keep our friendships going right on into eternity...now how much fun is that?!



Photos by Tatyana Wahlman



Honor Classes photos provided by Kim Mitchell, GSAA Alumni Coordinator



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For latest news, check GSAA newsletter on the website or visit our Facebook page

Gem State Adventist Academy

Graduation

weekend

June 2-4, 2017



Friday, June 2	Class Night, 7PM
Saturday, June 3	Baccalaureate, 11AM
Saturday, June 3	Consecration, 7PM
Sunday, June 4	Commencement, 10AM

*Centennial
Celebration*

March 30 - April 1, 2018



Save the Date!