

AMBLESIDE OCALA

November 2017



"Attention is no more than this-- the power of giving your mind to what you are about."

~Charlotte Mason

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FAFO  
2017  
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Ambleside
SCHOOL OF OCALA

"The first act of love is always the giving of attention." Dallas Willard

November rushes in and already I notice the increasing clamor for my attention. Where to direct it? Or even in moments, *can* I direct it? Exams? Veterans Day? Thanksgiving trip to visit my mom? Church camping weekend? Parent Observation Day? Family? Friends? Early Christmas Shopping? Ambleside High School? Shakespeare play? Just a snippet of my thought-life this morning as I look at our calendar.

Recently, Pastor Joe LaCognata's chapel message "**The most important person**" challenged us to see the person *right in front of you* as the most important person. Simple enough! Except it's not without real intentionality. I practiced this a bit during our busy weekend: family fun night, Scholarship Sale, FAFO. It made such difference in my ability to be present in the moment. Dallas Willard offers some additional advice: ruthlessly eliminate hurry.

May we recognize and rightly respond to our power to choose.

I have been thinking recently that it's not simply more information we need, it's the challenge to allow that information to *actually* change how we interact with the world. As we seek to follow Jesus' commands to love God and love one another, may we consider carefully what "wins" our attention. And, where there are gaps between what we claim we believe and how we actually behave as a result, may we be brave enough to be honest and seek the ever-present help of the Holy Spirit.

For the children's sake,
Jill Romine

"There is no real excellence in all this world which can be separated from right living."

~ David Starr Jordan

PVA

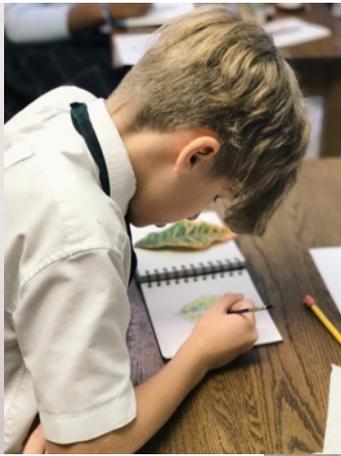
We need your help to make the 12th Annual Father-Daughter Dance a success! Just a reminder each family is responsible for securing \$250 in sponsorships for the dance. Please let us know which businesses we can credit to your family sponsorship. If you need help contacting businesses our committee members (Misty Kinsey, Tyler Emmons, Leslie Simpson and Heather Richards) are happy to help you.

This is our only fundraiser and the funds raised this year will go towards the refurbishment of the ASO High School building, adding a pavilion to our lunch area and as always to cover any expected fiscal shortfalls in our operating expenses as we continue to provide a life-giving, Christ-centered education for our students.

Dates & Details

Wed - Nov 1 - Early Release - Weather Makeup Day
Fri - Nov 3 - Parents Observation Day 10:30 - 12:00
Fri - Nov 3 - Picture Day 2: 4th-8th Grades, Staff & Arrowsmith

Fri - Nov 10 - Veterans Day Chapel 9:00
Wed - Nov 8 - MS Lunch
Mon - Nov 13-17 - Early Release/Exam Week - Dismissal - Noon
Mon - Nov 20-24 - NO School - Thanksgiving Holiday



“Conversation Starters”

Ideas and Topics from the Classroom

Kindergarten:

K: Math - Count forward by 2's starting with 0 stopping at 30.
Recitation- Recite Genesis 1:26-28

1st & 2nd Grades:

1st: Tell back about the Swineherd.

2nd: How did William Bradford's obedience benefit him at the fair?

3rd & 4th Grades:

3rd: Discuss the ways Ellie and the other "Roses" are living up to their vow of doing good deeds.

4th: History- What brave act did Anne Hutchinson do and how was she treated? Why was it considered such a brave act at the time?

5th & 6th Grades:

5th: Please narrate the poems "Simon Lee" and "Lucy Grey" by William Wordsworth.

6th: Tell back the story of how Canada was founded and the importance of the Quebec Act. How did this story connect with what we have learned about Canada in geography?

7th & 8th Grades:

7th: How did Helen Keller view higher education? Tell about The Courtship of Miles Standish by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

8th: What is the function of bones? Name 30 or so bones in the body starting with the frontal bone and ending with the phalanges in the feet. Which ones are axial? What makes them so? If bones don't belong to the axial group, what group do they belong to? Why does the world revere Leonardo DaVinci so much?

Upcoming Events

What You Need To Know

Parent Observation Day--please join us Friday, November 3rd from 10:30am - Lunch.

Veterans Day - Please join us for Veterans Day Chapel service in the Church sanctuary on Friday, November 10th, 9:00am-10:00am. All family and friends welcome.

Student Fees - When sending money to the school, please place cash or checks in an envelope with name, date, amount and what the money is for and deliver to the main office. Please don't drop money off in carline.

Exam Week: (November 13-17) is Early Release at noon-all week. Students in grades 1-8 have an opportunity to share what they know and expand on their deepened relationships. Parents, please help us maintain a peace-filled approach to exams; students enter into this week naturally and excitedly, and there is no need to cram or study. Evaluated exams will go home for your review on December 8th. We are still looking for parents to serve as scribes for grades 1-3, so if you are available, please contact Kristy Gibboney in the office or by email kgibboney@amblesideocala.com

Yearbook - Schedule Update For November, we will meet on November 7th and 28th. We encourage you to share your pictures from field studies, service projects, handwork, after school activities, and chapels. On our website under the events tab, there is a link that says submit photos for yearbook. We appreciate any pictures from your time with the students.

Chapel Recitation Schedule - November 3rd - 8th Grade.

No prayer time due to pictures.

All parents are invited to stay to pray over the class and teacher on the day of their recitation.

Operation Shoebox - Please remember to have your boxes turned in to the main office for Leslie Simpson by November 3rd.

Holiday Shopping - As you begin any online holiday shopping, PLEASE REMEMBER to use the [Amazon Portal](#) on our Events Tab on the website or click here <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/30-0178066>

Grace School of the Arts - Please join us as our students perform pieces they have prepared and learned over the semester.
Monday, December 4 at 6pm.
Monday, December 11 at 6pm.

Yoga Class - Rachel Dicks, a new parent to Ambleside, is offering an adult yoga class in Parish Hall on Tuesdays & Fridays from 4pm-5pm. Packages will be available for purchase. First night is free. Please see the schedule below:

Tuesday November 14
Friday November 17
Tuesday November 28
Friday December 1
Tuesday December 5
Friday December 8
Tuesday December 12

WHAT DO YOU BRING?:

- * a yoga or exercise mat.
- * a blanket or large towel.
- * a water bottle.
- * the intention and knowledge that Yoga is not competitive. Anyone can do it!

Please pick up a form in the office.
Please bring it to your first class.

To complete your enrollment, give Rachel a short text message on her phone number: [352-615-9790](tel:352-615-9790).

4H

Yearbook

Philosophy Club

Library

4H

November: 8th
(3:15 - 4:30)

Future meetings held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

Contact:
Kim Dinkins
352-895-8693

Yearbook

Yearbook - Every Tuesday 3:15-4:00pm, except Early Release and Days Off.

Contact:
Debbie Ayton
352-502-2408

8th Grade Philosophy Club

The book is called Sophie's World by Jostein Gaarder. It is a novel that presents the major philosophical ideas of Western Civilization, from Socrates to modern psychology.

Nov. 16 - Ch. 13-16
Dec. 7 - Ch. 16-18
Jan. 11 - Ch. 19-21
Feb 15 - Ch. 22-24
March 8 - Ch. 25-28
April 12 - Ch. 29-31
May 10 - Ch. 32-35

Library

Monday, Nov 6th & 27th for K-3rd Grades

Contact:
Amber Martin
352-266-8037

Basketball

B-Ball Games

Service Projects

Practice:
7th & 8th grade

Mon, Tues,
Thurs & Fri

Coach Todd Charske
937-272-5500

Games:

• Tues, Nov 7th 4-6pm - St. Johns

• Thurs Nov 30th 5-7pm -
Dunnellon Christian Academy

Coach Todd Charske
937-272-5500

Movie Night

Friday, November 3

The Truman Show

Plan on arriving at about 6:30 with the movie starting at 7. We'll have popcorn and a dessert. Discussion will start at 8:30. We will end the evening's events at 9:30 pm.

Contact:
Stephen Zedler
stephen.zedler@gmail.com

Nov 8th - 2nd Grade
Ocali Days

Nov 9th - 4th Grade
Service Project
Dignity Center

Nov 10th - 8th Grade
Service Project
Dignity Serves

Contact:
Kristy Gibboney



A Little Extra Help

by Melissa Steed

ASO PARENT PERSPECTIVE

Awkward. Does that word describe any or all of your middle school experience? It does mine. I remember bus rides, a first dance, figuring out what to wear, and who to sit with at lunch all being BIG deals. And then I liked a boy but no way was I going to talk to my mom much about him. And then that boy started "dating" one of my best friends (and by this I mean riding his bike to her house to say hi). Whew. What a little roller coaster in life.

Although Ambleside has many advantages in its size and philosophy to protect against some of the more traditional challenges at this age, the middle school years are still filled with new things to experience and new challenges to work through. Opportunities for independence present themselves but so does added responsibility to manage. Concrete thoughts become more abstract and present questions and wonder about the world. Bodies change and so do interests. Friendships shift. Autonomy calls. And yet, young adults in middle school need voices and trusted people listening into their lives and ready to offer support when it is needed.

In Sticky Faith, a book by Drs. Kara Powell and Chap Clark, the authors talk about how years ago many more adults were involved in childrens' lives. Grandparents lived nearby. Multiple generations lived on the same property or in the same house. Aunts and uncles were present regularly. In our present day, families are spread out. The chance for many adults speaking into our childrens' lives and knowing them deeply has dwindled. It takes intentionality to have trusted adults involved with our kids. And sometimes they are the ones who will leave a lasting impact (brace yourself) even more than us as the parents.

Several years ago at Ambleside, we noticed that the middle school students struggled relationally. This carried over into struggles in the classroom and at home. We wanted to address it, because when we see a need at our school, we like to meet it where it is. We developed a mentor program, matching every middle school student up with a same gender adult to meet with. They meet at least once a month- sometimes over lunch, sometimes off campus. The students eat it up. There has become an excitement and a warmth about the program from the student and adult perspective. We have more than 50 adults, related to the school in some way, investing in our young people. Sometimes the conversations are deep, sometimes they are jovial. Sometimes we meet in groups, sometimes with our families alongside.

As a parent with two middle schoolers, I can say that my children look forward to EVERY interaction with their mentors. Recently I was able to call my daughter's mentor and talk about a challenge in her life. It lightened my load, and it gave me more healthy perspective on the situation. I am so very thankful for each and every adult that has committed time to our 6th-8th graders. Keep it in mind for when you are able to do such a thing. I know the students will look back and remember it, for life. And maybe they will choose to spend their time as adults doing just the same thing.

To laugh often and much; To win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; To earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; To appreciate beauty, to find the best in others; To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded.

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

