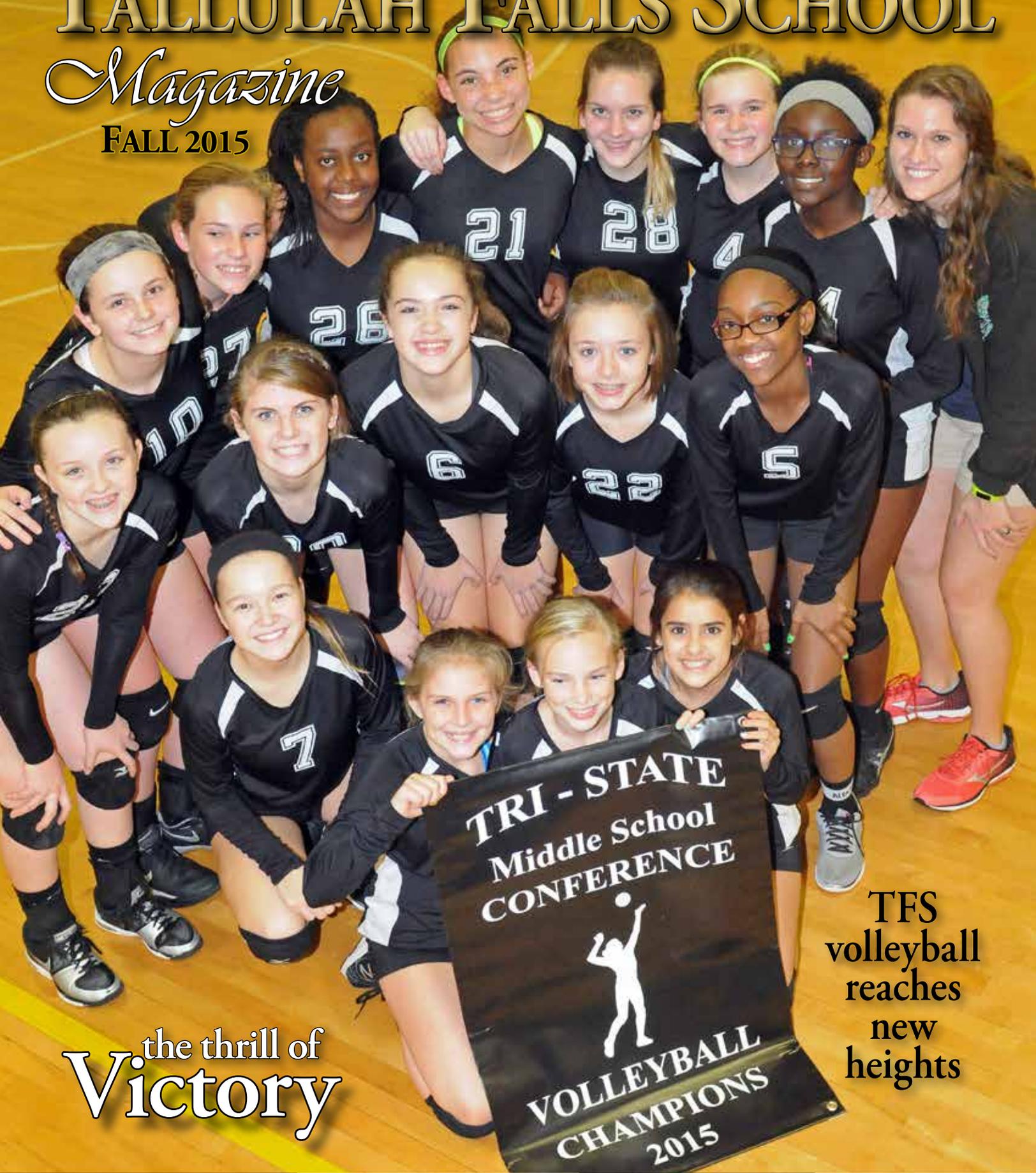


TALLULAH FALLS SCHOOL

Magazine

FALL 2015



the thrill of
Victory

TFS
volleyball
reaches
new
heights

Twin Rivers Challenge

Fifth grade is coming

Fall sports recap

TFS college fair

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The time is now

There is an old saying that goes “there is a time for everything.” It is derived from something very old and very wise, the Old Testament Book of Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3, Verse 1: “To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven.” These words were written by King Solomon, said to be the wisest man in the world during his time, and his words are reflected in many ways at Tallulah Falls School.

There was a time to change our academic standards. We have embraced academic excellence and the rigors of a challenging college preparatory curriculum which includes 18 college credit courses taught on our campus. A time to open the school to commuter students, returning to our original mission of providing a quality education to deserving local children. A time to make an independent school education affordable for families, providing financial aid to 70 percent of our students and creating an innovative tuition freeze program that helps give certainty to family budgets.

There was a time for cutting-edge technology, providing laptop computers for every student and a wireless campus which puts a world of information at every student’s fingertips. A



time to add a separate middle school campus, giving these in-between age students their own unique identity and age-appropriate learning environment. A time to renovate the upper school academic complex, providing additional classrooms to keep class sizes small and focus on providing personal attention to each student.

There was a time to add sports programs, allowing students to learn the value of teamwork, sportsmanship, school spirit, and character. A time to build a new middle school multi-purpose building, demonstrating our commitment to expanding an already-strong middle school program. And now, it is time to add a 5th grade. These pre-teen students will provide curiosity, energy and vitality to our outstanding student body—we are excited about their arrival in August of 2016!

All of these facets fit together to form a beautiful and productive picture of an independent school in Georgia that is on the move. We continue to be guided by what is in the best interest of our students, and through strategic planning we prioritize what we do and when we do it—timing is everything. There is a time for Tallulah Falls School to realize its full potential and take its place among the finest independent schools in the state, the region, and the nation. The time is now.

Sincerely,

Larry A. Peevy
President and Head of School

tfs magazine . contents

VOLUME 38 • NUMBER 3 • FALL 2015



Our readers are accustomed to seeing TFS students enjoying the beautiful natural environment, but a group of faculty and staff are shown getting in on the act as well. Shelby Day, Sara Roberts, Amanda Rogers, Lisa Wilcox and Zijun Xu enjoy the spectacular fall scenery at Pickens Nose in the nearby Nantahala National Forest.



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ON THE COVER: Just one game shy of perfection, the TFS middle school volleyball girls enjoyed one of the best seasons in TFS history. See story on page 19.

PRESIDENT and HEAD of SCHOOL
Larry A. Peevy

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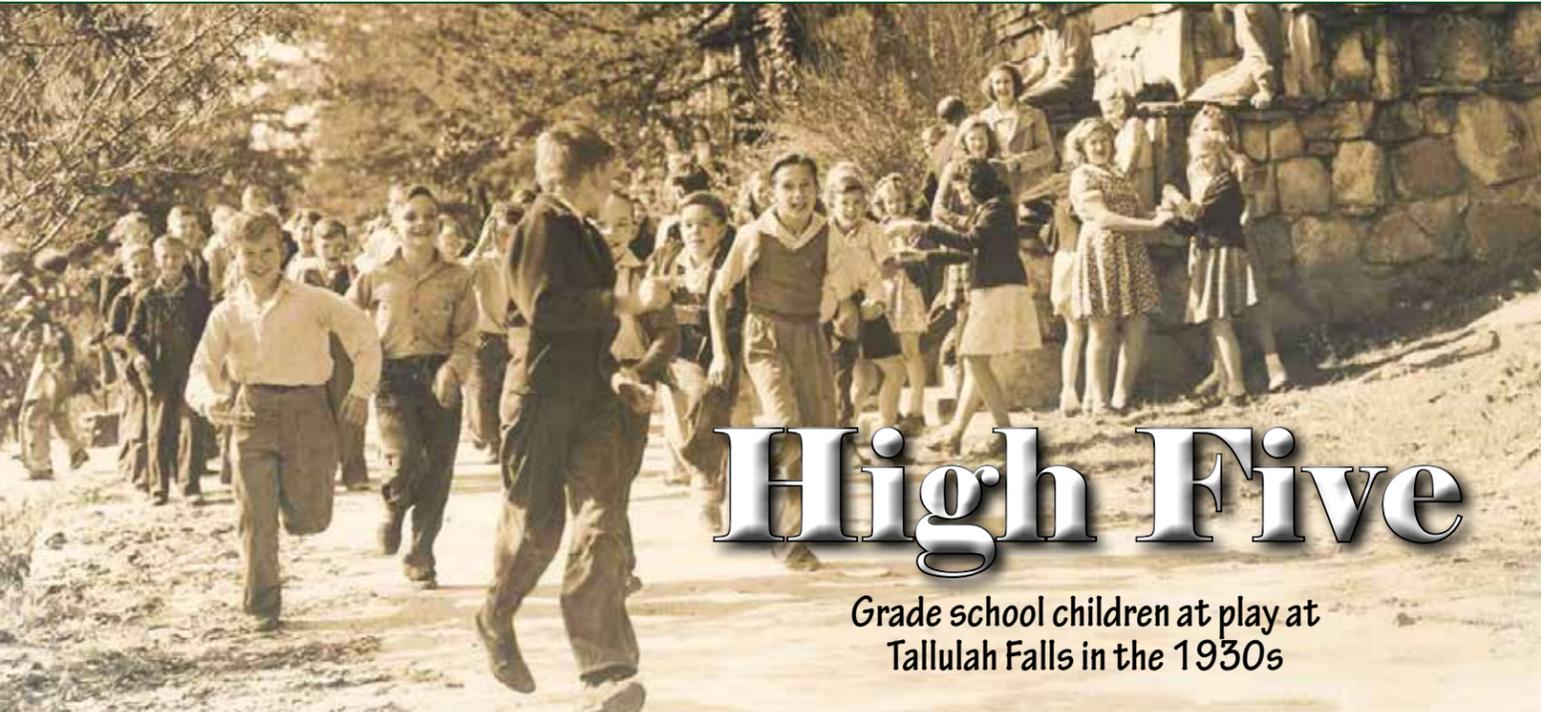
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Tallulah Falls School Magazine is published by the TFS Office of Advancement



High Five

Grade school children at play at Tallulah Falls in the 1930s

TFS to reestablish 5th grade for 2016-17 academic year

For more than 60 years 5th graders were members of the Tallulah Falls School community. Beginning next year, area students and families will once again have that opportunity to enroll their fifth grader into TFS.

“After thoughtful consultation with faculty, staff, current parents, our Board of Trustees and other vested stakeholders, I am pleased to announce Tallulah Falls School will reestablish a 5th grade program at the beginning of the 2016-2017 academic year,” said Larry A. Peevy, Tallulah Falls School president and head of school.

Over the past six years, as a result of tremendous growth in the school’s day student program, Tallulah Falls School has returned to its original mission of educating area children from surrounding Habersham, Rabun, White, Hall and Stephens Counties. In light of this historic shift, the school believes it is most appropriate to rethink its grade mix at this time.

Beyond history, there are many practical reasons why reestablishing 5th grade makes sense. “We have seen a surge in requests from current parents and prospective parents in the community to go forward with adding a 5th grade,” Peevy said.

Peevy believes that this demand is a reflection of how pleased current parents are with the school’s existing program, and that they are truly “invested partners in our dual mission of elevating intellect and developing character in their children.” He added that “Interest from prospective parents comes from the very enthusiastic feedback they have received from current parents and others in the community about the positive things happening at TFS—good news travels fast.”

According to Peevy, the earlier students enter the TFS middle school program, the more likely they will experience tremendous success in the school’s upper school program when they reach 9th grade and beyond. “By reestablishing a 5th grade program, we will be able to meet the needs of parents while keeping class sizes small at 15 students per class. We don’t want to be the biggest school in Georgia, just the best,” Peevy said.

“By reestablishing a 5th grade program, we will be able to meet the needs of parents while keeping class sizes small at 15 students per class. We don’t want to be the biggest school in Georgia, just the best.”

-Larry A. Peevy
President
and Head of School

Tallulah Falls School



Welcomes 5th Grade Fall 2016

www.tallulahfalls.org



The billboard across from Habersham Hills Cinemas 6 is just one of the ways that TFS is informing the public about the new 5th grade.

“The most compelling reason for reestablishing a 5th grade at TFS is that we will be providing a tremendous opportunity for a quality college preparatory education to a whole new age group of students. These pre-teen 5th graders will bring additional vitality, curiosity, and energy to our middle school,” Peevy added.

In return, the school offers a challenging, nurturing and caring learning environment where world-class technology will give the 5th graders a window to the world. Because of the financial support TFS receives from a major foundation, the school’s day tuition rate of \$10,000 is approximately \$6,000 to \$12,000 lower than other independent schools within a 100-mile radius.

The school also has a family-friendly tuition freeze program whereby a student’s tuition rate is fixed and frozen at the time of their initial enrollment at the school and remains the same throughout their years at TFS. “We feel the tuition freeze program gives families some control and certainty in planning for their children’s education,” Peevy said.

The school will limit the size of its initial 5th grade class, so interested parents are encouraged to contact the school’s admissions office to arrange a visit as soon as possible. On October 12th TFS held a very well attended Open House on the middle school campus for prospective students. Call the school at 706-754-0400 or visit the website at www.tallulahfalls.org to arrange a campus visit.



Visitors like these 4th graders from The Little School in Clarkesville were among the first to hear about the addition of fifth grade for next year. Pictured with President Peevy, they were on campus in October to tour the middle school.



photo credit: E. Lane Gresham



Let's Ride!



Inaugural cycling event is big success with riders and sponsors

By all accounts the inaugural Twin Rivers Challenge cycling event was a huge success. More than 110 riders and more than 40 sponsors participated in the October 31 fundraiser benefiting student scholarships at Tallulah Falls School. With fall colors nearing their crescendo, an enthusiastic column of colorful riders responded to the 9 a.m. crack of TFS President Larry Peevy's starting pistol and rolled downhill toward the school's north gate beginning a ride through some of Northeast Georgia's most spectacular scenery.

The ride offered three lengths: 115K (72 miles), 72K (45 miles), and 37K (24 miles). The 115K route explored beautifully scenic portions of the Tallulah River and the Soque River watersheds.

Director of Community Relations E. Lane Gresham coordinated the event on behalf of the school with Twin Rivers Challenge committee co-chairs Dr. Judy Forbes, TFS Board of Trustees member, and Joey Brown, a local cyclist and parent of a TFS alum.

President Peevy was quite pleased with the outcome of the event. "I would like to thank all volunteers, including faculty, students, staff, and community supporters that did such a great job of making the event so successful. The riders commented that they all felt like winners because of the treatment they received and the crowd that greeted them at the finish line."

Dr. Judy Forbes, a driving force behind the creation of the ride, commented, "I was very pleased with the ride, the beauty of the route, and the efficiency which we experienced this year. Students will reap the benefits of the scholarships, and I feel that we are off to a good start with an activity which will only grow in time."



A solo rider glides downhill along colorful GA 197 just above the SAG stop at Mark of the Potter.

continued on next page



Top left: Seniors Aly Todd (left) and Riko Miyazaki were among dozens of student volunteers for the ride.

Top right: Riders are layered up as they leave the TFS campus. Left: Bluegrass 'pickers' from the Tallulah Falls Opry put on a concert during the registration period. Sandy Martin (red blouse), a TFS bus driver, provided some great vocals.

TWIN RIVERS CHALLENGE - PHOTO ALBUM



Weary riders crossing the finish line

TFS faculty member Jennifer Dunlap heads out



TWIN RIVERS CHALLENGE - PHOTO ALBUM



The beautiful Soque at SAG stop No. 3 - Mark of the Potter

continued from previous page

Gresham was in charge of organizing the complex event. Her responsibilities included coordinating food, music, law enforcement, dozens of volunteers, support stops and vehicles, photographers, ride shirts and gift bags.

"It was a pleasure working on this event with Judy and Joey. Their ideas and logistical support were invaluable," Gresham said. "Collaborating on a new project is always energizing. Having such a positive response to a first-year event speaks to the support we have within the community. Our faculty, staff, students and parents provided tremendous help as well; I loved seeing our TFS family shine."

Feedback from the participants was overwhelmingly positive. One rider commented: "Gorgeous ride! Well organized with the sweetest volunteers and challenging course. I hope this ride becomes a tradition. Thanks to everyone who planned, volunteered and participated!"

Rider Victor Fabricius wrote, "Awesome event. 115K was challenging for sure. Please extend my gratitude and thanks to all especially the SAG No. 4 group [Coach Tilley and the Lady Indians]."

continued on page 24



Post-race hospitality included the TFS fire pit (left) and a post-race meal

conclusion on page 24

TFS mourns the loss of Elaine Chandler, President GFWC - GA



**Elaine Chandler
GFWC President
1951-2015**

Elaine Chandler, President of the General Federation of Women's Clubs - Georgia, and longtime supporter of Tallulah Falls School, passed away on September 25 in Forsyth, due to complications from a recent surgery. Chandler had been a member of the Federation for more than 30 years.

During her time as a member of the GFWC, Chandler served as Junior Director and later President of GFWC Georgia's Sixth District. Beginning in 2006, she served a two-year term as GFWC Georgia Treasurer, Third Vice President, Second Vice President and First Vice President/President Elect. In April 2014 Chandler began serving a two-year term as President.

Chandler was born in 1951. She grew up in Macon and taught school in Monroe County for 30 years. She was also an adjunct professor at Mercer University. Chandler was the wife of Larry Chandler, and she is survived by her sister, Marjorie Singley-Hall of Atlanta. Chandler's funeral was held September 29 in Forsyth.

Chandler's family has requested that donations be made to a perpetual scholarship established at Tallulah Falls School in Chandler's honor. Please mark your gift "to the Chandler Perpetual Scholarship Fund" and send it to: Tallulah Falls School, attn: Melody Henderson, P.O. Box 10, Tallulah Falls, GA 30573.

Mrs. Elaine Chandler - President, G.F.W.C. - Georgia

TFS honors Stone Mountain Woman's Club for funding 25 years of ghostly fun



The Stone Mountain Woman's Club is a big supporter of Tallulah Falls School and a regular visitor to the TFS campus. During a mid-October visit this year TFS Dean of Students Jimmy Franklin surprised the visiting ladies with some 'mountain grown' gifts as a way of saying 'thank you' to the club for paying for

TFS students to attend Stone Mountain Park's 'A Tour of Southern Ghosts' each year. 2015 marked the 25th year that the club has paid for TFS students to attend. Not only do the Stone Mountain ladies purchase the tickets, but they also provide a hot dog supper along with Halloween goodies.

college fair



“The college fair was a fun way to look ahead and plan for the future ... the fair reminded me as a freshman that I am never too young to think about good college choices for a successful future.”

*-Madeline McClurg
TFS freshman*



Seniors Denzel Green Wright, Michael VanHooser, and Michael Weidner look over college materials while planning where they will attend college next year.

a family affair

College fairs on the TFS campus are becoming a routine part of the academic year, but more and more often parents are becoming part of the experience. On October 2 representatives from 17 colleges and universities visited with students and parents in the Lettie Pate Evans student center.

Schools represented at the October 2 fair included Berry College, Brenau University, Coastal Georgia College, Georgia College, Georgia Southern University, Georgia Southwestern State University, Johnson and Wales, Lenoir-Rhyne University, Mercer University, Purdue University, Piedmont college, Presbyterian College, Western Carolina University, University of Alabama, University of Georgia, and the University of North Georgia. Additionally, a representative of the U.S. Marine Corps also participated.

“I was very pleased to see a large number of students and parents in attendance,” said TFS guidance counselor Bobby Hammond. “The interaction by both parents and students with the college reps was good to see.”

Matt McClurg joined his daughter Madeline, a freshman, at the event. “Obviously, right now we are just gathering information and asking questions,” said McClurg. Beyond the large number of in-state schools, McClurg was impressed with the distance that some of the college reps traveled to attend the fair. “I was astonished to see someone from Purdue,” he said.

Madeline McClurg was enthusiastic about her interaction with the college representatives. She met and talked with three individuals as she began exploring which school could best fit her interests - broadcasting, music or musical theater.

“The college fair was a fun way to look ahead and plan for the future,” Madeline McClurg said. “The college that stood out to me the most was UGA because they have an outstanding broadcasting program in a school that is relatively close to where I live. The thing that made the biggest impression on me was the fair reminded me as a freshman that I am never too young to think about good college choices for a successful future.”

Julia Nichols, a junior, spoke with representatives from five schools, three in-state and two out-of-state. “One school that stood out to me was Lenoir-Rhyne University,” Nichols said. “The school is in Hickory, North Carolina. and they have a swim team. The college fair was an experience to work on people skills. When it comes time to choose a college, you have experience with talking to reps.”

“The college representatives were very impressed by our students,” Hammond said in closing. “By the questions they asked, their general knowledge of the process and their mature behavior. They all commented they would like to return again in the spring.”

To view more photos from the event, find Tallulah Falls School on Facebook.

story and photos by E. Lane Gresham

WALK A MILE IN HER SHOES

There is an old saying that goes, “You really can’t understand another person’s experience until you’ve walked a mile in their shoes.” A group of TFS students and staff found this out first hand as they donned high-heels and joined the fight against domestic violence by participating in the annual *Walk A Mile in Her Shoes* event.

The walk took place October 10 in Cornelia. Hosted locally by the Circle of Hope, *Walk A Mile in Her Shoes* invites community members to don a pair of high heels and walk in the International Men’s March to Stop Rape, Sexual Assault and Gender Violence.

TFS day and boarding students were joined by dormitory counselors Preston Fowler and Allie Audet. Other TFS staff members walking with the students that day were Assistant Director of Plant Services and TFS Tae Kwon Do teacher, Todd Besier, and IT Specialist Josh Brady.

Students and staff ‘step up’ in the fight against gender violence



photos by E. Lane Gresham

TFS IT Specialist Josh Brady, better known as Batman, a member of Heroes in Force, shows that even Superheroes go the extra mile for a worthy cause.

TLS visits TFS

An all-girl group of fifth graders from Clarksville’s The Little School visited the TFS campus on October 21. The group received a warm welcome from President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy before taking a special tour of the middle school facility and outdoor classroom.

From left: Ellesen Eubank, Carol Kate Dunlap, Emma Barrett, President Peevy, Eden Croninger, Ella Jane Dow, Jayln Colston, Catherine Childs and Ella Loveland.



Mr. Peevy with special guests from The Little School in Clarksville

submitted photo



TFS Ambassadors

Tallahah Falls School President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy is shown above introducing the 2015-16 TFS Ambassador team. The Ambassadors are an elite group of Tallahah Falls School students who represent the school

at a variety of public and school events throughout the year. Students who are chosen as Ambassadors not only demonstrate academic excellence but are model school citizens that possess outstanding leadership characteristics.

2015-16 Ambassador team

First row, from left: Meredith Church, Anna Davis, Emma Caldwell, Grace Brewer, President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy, Emma Peacock, Julia Nichols, Anne Edwards, Da Young (Helen) Lee, Mio Sugawara. Second row, from left: Kayley Pugh, Brittany Stein, Perry Gresham, Chloe Turpin, Michelle Namkung, Tori Sesam, Abby Hulsey, Vanessa Lewis. Third row, from left: Stephen Nash, Max Teems, Ethan Johnson, Jerry Wei, Jason Lin, Sunni Brett, Aida Roberts, Angela Mensah, Riko Miyazaki, Maci Watts. Fourth row, from left: Edward Kivett, William Cantrell, Harry Ward, Jordan Teng, Mark Faingold, Jeffrey Teng, Michael Weidner, Ashley Kemp. Back row, from left: John Luke Gallagher, James Davis, Aaryan Bhagwat, Josh Brown, Michael VanHooser, Josey Keene, Ethen Besier, Sam Griswold, Collin Mickels.

There are field trips, and then there are field trips. This fall, TFS seventh graders took the short drive down Hwy 365 to popular Jaemor Farms in Alto. The purpose of the trip was to learn about the agricultural industry's deep roots (pun intended) as an economic engine in Northeast Georgia.

Jaemor is definitely a fun place to visit, as huge crowds frequent the farm during the spring, summer and fall, but there was a definite learning component to this trip. The visit included a farm tour trailer ride, an observation honey beehive, a lesson on how earthworms compost organic materials, a study on cotton, apple picking and processing, a tour of the produce coolers, and a discussion on food safety.

Afterward, the 'fun' part of the excursion began with 'recess' time as students explored the mini corn maze, petting zoo, farm slide and enjoyed a great picnic lunch.

"The day was both fun and educational," said middle school teacher Nancy Almoyan. "The trip was a great way for the students to observe and discuss the steps involved for produce to get from the field to their table at home."

"The students learned first hand about the agricultural industry and experienced a great way to kick off the fall season," Almoyan added.



Getting down to earth



photos by E. Lane Gresham

Broadcasting students assist local Chick-fil-A with employee training videos

TFS Video Production and Broadcasting students garnered practical video production experience as they traveled to the Chick-fil-A in Cornelia and produced several short employee training videos. Under the direction of TFS video and broadcasting instructor Kerri Pugh, the students worked with Chick-fil-A employee Brenda Nguyen to create, shoot, and edit a series of videos to be utilized by new employees.

TFS students role-played as Chick-fil-A employees to demonstrate the proper technique and phrases to use when greeting or thanking customers. They also demonstrated basic tasks such as proper cleaning techniques. Senior Michelle Namkung was asked to demonstrate how a Chick-fil-A employee properly responds to customers. "The employees respond positively by saying, 'my pleasure.' They are very serious about demonstrating excellent customer service," she said.

According to seniors Mio Sugawara and Riko Miyazaka the students enjoyed the experience. In addition to participating in the video shoot they also played a role in the creative process. The students learned a great deal about employer and customer expectations. When asked about her favorite part of the experience, Sugawara replied, "eating the chicken!" Kids will be kids, after all.

Front row (kneeling) from left: Michelle Namkung, Mio Sugawara, Laura Ramos Barrau, Riko Miyazaki, Katelyn Ao. Back row (standing) from left: Mark Faingold, Renayre Forbes, Jenifer Kulow, William Cantrell, Jordan Mincey, Ms. Brenda Nguyen.



a real 'field' trip



EXCLAMATION ▲

Faces of Field Day



INSPIRATION ▲



Field Day -
The thrill of victory...
The agony of defeat...
The satisfaction of giving it your ALL...

◀ SATISFACTION



sportsmanship...camaraderie
leadership...team building



PERSEVERANCE ▲

ENDURANCE ▼



DETERMINATION ▲

competition



JUBILATION ▼

CELEBRATION ▲



▼ SELF-CONFIDENCE



Outstanding Former Students

we're looking for a few exceptional men and women

TFS is now accepting nominations for -

outstanding former student

outstanding young former student

All nominations will go through a special selection committee independent of the alumni committee. Winners will be notified well in advance of Alumni Homecoming which will be held in April 2016.

To nominate someone for Outstanding Former Student visit the TFS website: **www.tallahahfalls.org**. Click on the 'TFS Alumni' bar at the top right, then scroll down to 'Outstanding Former Student' form at the bottom.

Considerations:

- community involvement
- service in the U.S. Armed Forces
- service to others in trade or industry
 - achieved excellence in their business or field
- exhibited outstanding leadership in their field or in the public arena
 - accomplished entrepreneurship or business accomplishment
- distinguished service in government or on boards of directors
- demonstrated history of volunteering
 - published works
- history of giving back to TFS through donations or service
- a life that exemplifies the school mission

Plan now to be a part of this year's

Basketball Alumni Night

Saturday January 16, 2016



chili supper at the fire pit 5 p.m. ♦ varsity games start at 6 p.m.

former players, cheerleaders and coaches will be recognized between varsity games

Mark your calendar

2016 ALUMNI HOMECOMING WEEKEND
FRIDAY APRIL 15 & SATURDAY APRIL 16, 2016
 Friday night - Fun at the field • music • food • games •
 Saturday - 5k race • luncheon



Class of 2016 next in line

With graduation a scant six months away, a large contingent of the TFS Class of 2016 pose for a photo preceding this year's senior hot dog supper, hosted by the TFS Alumni Committee.

The annual event allows seniors to meet and mingle with members of the alumni association and learn about the opportunities to give back to the school after graduation.

Abdullah (Class of 2008) impacts lives through Playworks youth program

Mariam Abdullah (Class of 2008) a 2015 TFS Outstanding Former Student, is still making news. 'Mo' as she was known at TFS, recently appeared on WUSA-9's *Great Day Washington* morning show to talk about how the Playworks youth program is making a positive difference in two dozen Washington, D.C. schools.

'Coach Mo' (red shirt) as she is now known is shown with *Great Day Washington* host Meaghan Mooney (left) and Kanya Shabazz, Playworks program director. They are joined by Playworks junior coach 'E.G.' discussing how the program combats bullying and social isolation with healthy, inclusive play.



photo credit: WUSA



Wendy **JACKSON**

Jackson named Director of Admissions

There is a new face in the TFS admissions office. Wendy Jackson of Clarkesville has been named the school's new Director of Admissions. Jackson's first day was October 12. Jackson is uniquely gifted with a personal passion for student growth and development according to President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy.

"Wendy has a strong history of dedicated leadership in education," Peevy said. "Under her leadership as the Head of School at The Little School in Clarkesville, she has helped shape the early years of education for hundreds of students in our local community."

"In her new position, she will continue to inspire students to realize their personal and educational goals," Peevy continued. Tallulah Falls School and The Little School have been strategic partners in independent school education for many years, and TFS looks forward to continuing this relationship, Peevy added.

Jackson brings a tremendous connection to the community through her service at The Little School, said TFS Dean of Enrollment Kelly Woodall.

"We are very fortunate to have someone with Wendy's experience in education, genuine care for students, and strong reputation in the local community. She will be a wonderful addition to the TFS family," Woodall said.

"I am so thankful for the opportunity to join the Admissions team at Tallulah Falls School and continue my passion for independent education," Jackson said. "I look forward to meeting student families and assisting them in their search for an exemplary college preparatory education. There truly is no greater joy than to watch a child grow, learn, and reach their full potential."

Jackson is married to Jeff Jackson and has two children, Will, a ninth grader and Maggie, a seventh grader. Both children attend TFS.



Garrett **Lane**

Lane recognized by Merit Scholarship program

President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy congratulates Tallulah Falls School senior Garrett Lane of Clayton on being named a Commended Student in the 2016 National Merit Scholarship program. Lane placed in the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2016 competition by taking the 2014 preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship qualifying exam.

Rotary honors Crosby



Kaitlyn **Crosby**

Kaitlyn Crosby, a senior from Clayton, was selected by the Rotary Club of Clayton as Student of the Month for September. Crosby recently attended a Rotary luncheon in Clayton where she was recognized for her achievement. The Clayton Rotary honors one student each month from Tallulah Falls School, Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School, and Rabun County High School.



Provine honored by physicians academy

President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy congratulates Tallulah Falls School senior Amelia Provine of Clarkesville for receiving an award of excellence from the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists. Provine attended the NAFPMSCongress during the summer of 2015. After completing her undergraduate degree, Provine plans to attend dental school.

Outstanding middle school students

Three Tallulah Falls School middle school students have been selected by members of the TFS faculty as students of the month for September.

Ava Wehrstein was named sixth grader of the month. "Ava is a responsible student who leads by example by displaying a positive attitude and good work ethic," said faculty member Annette Shirley

Seventh grader Olivia Rogowski was named seventh grader of the month. "Olivia has made a big impression on her teachers and classmates by being a conscientious student and a dependable friend," said Nancy Almoyan. "All the seventh grade teachers congratulate Olivia for achieving this honor."

John Nichols was selected as the eighth grader of the month. Georgia History teacher Killeen Jensen said, "John is a self-motivated, enthusiastic student who has a positive influence on others as a leader. He also does well in his academics."



Ava **Wehrstein**



Olivia **Rogowski**



John **Nichols**

Boarding standouts

Tallulah Falls School boarding staff selected Mio Sugawara (Japan) and Thomas Bartholf (Blue Ridge, GA) as Boarding Students of the Month for September, and Mark Faingold (Russia) and Mei Lin Wu (People's Republic of China) as the Boarding Students of the Month for October. These students were selected from approximately 135 boarding students at the school for their attitude, punctuality, dependability and leadership within the boarding environment.



Mio **Sugawara**



Thomas **Bartholf**



Mark **Faingold**



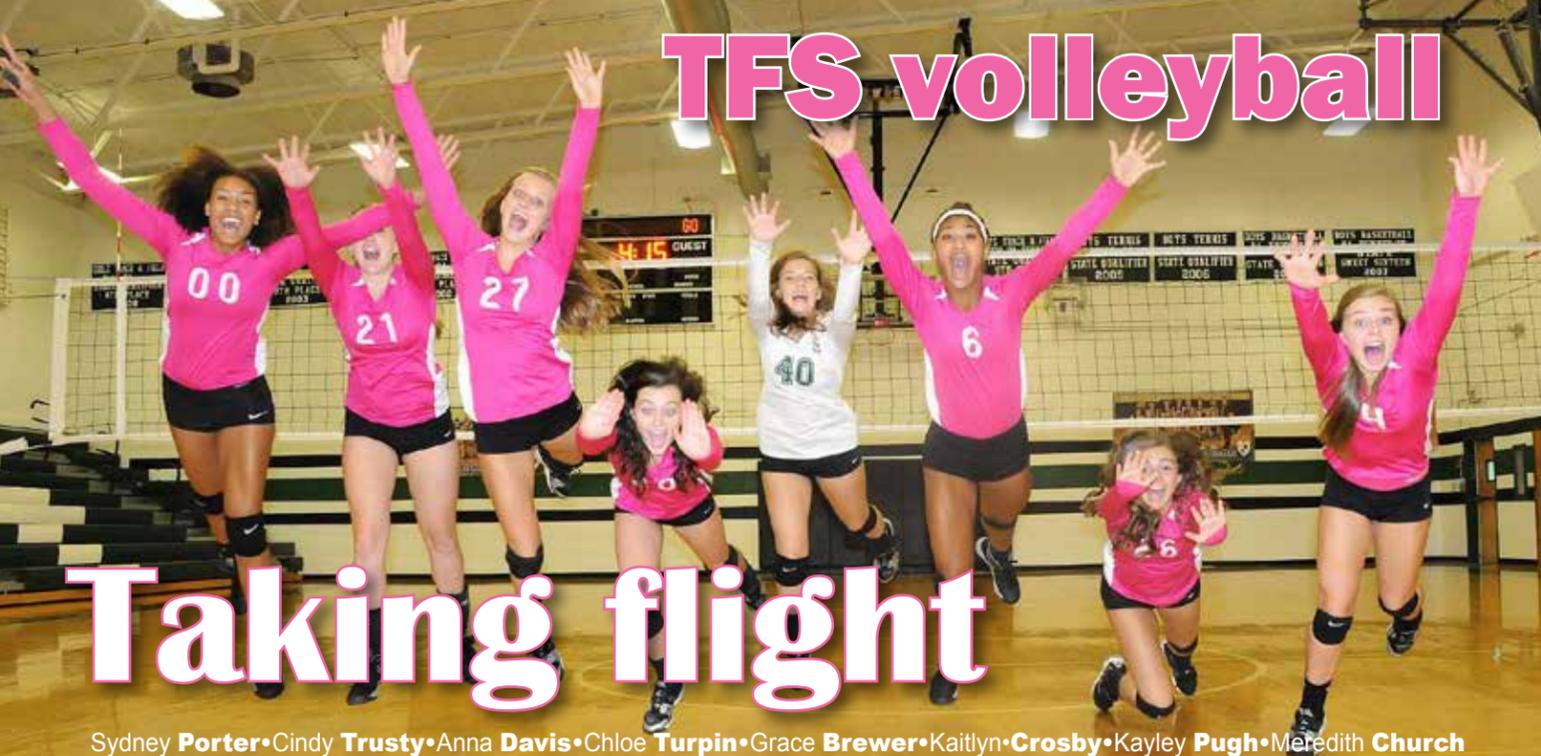
Mei Lin **Wu**

Students organize, participate in 'See You at the Pole'



Approximately 50 Tallulah Falls School high school students gathered in front of the upper school classroom building for the annual 'See You at the Pole' event. This year's meeting took place on September 23 just prior to the beginning of the academic day. Now in its 25th year, 'See You at the Pole' is a student-initiated, student-organized, and student-led event where students pray for their classmates, school and country. The event is held each year on the fourth Wednesday of September.

TFS volleyball



Taking flight

Sydney Porter • Cindy Trusty • Anna Davis • Chloe Turpin • Grace Brewer • Kaitlyn Crosby • Kayley Pugh • Meredith Church

25-11 regular season record **9th** regular season class A ranking **1st** ever appearance in state tournament

It's a basic tenet of sports - young teams typically struggle. Somebody forgot to tell that to the varsity volleyball squad as the sophomore-laden group fought to a 25-11 regular season record and a first-ever birth in the post-season state volleyball tournament.

Coach Allen Campbell simply referred to it as "a great season." Campbell is assisted by his wife, Cyndy, longtime coach of the team who now serves as assistant coach. "This year we finished fourth in Area 6, which is a very tough region. To earn a state-playoff berth in this region with this schedule is quite an accomplishment."

TFS defeated a strong Lakeview squad in the third round of the Area 6A tournament to qualify for the state tournament, but then lost in the first round to Mt. Paran Christian.

"As disappointed as we were to lose in the first round, our 27-14 final record is something we're very proud of. We've really raised the bar for the program," said Campbell.

"This year we traveled to play matches and tournaments out of the state twice, so our players got to spend a lot of time together bonding as a team. This helped us grow both as a team and in our confidence as a unit," Campbell said.

"I am really looking forward to working hard, getting better and competing at an even higher level next year."

Campbell's record setting team featured just one senior - Katelyn Crosby of Clayton. The balance of the roster included one junior and six sophomores. And did we mention that the JV team had a record of 22-7 this season? More experienced talent is on the way, so the future looks extremely bright for TFS volleyball.



"I am so incredibly proud of this group of young ladies. I could not have asked for a better group both on and off the court." Those are the words of Coach Ashley Fannon who was at the helm for one of Tallulah Falls School's most accomplished athletic campaigns.

Fannon's middle school volleyball girls finished their 2015 regular season with a perfect 17-0 record and ran through two postseason tournaments undefeated before falling in the championship game of the Northeast Georgia Middle School Volleyball Tournament. Just short of a perfect season, the Lady Indians finished with an impressive 22-1 record.

"The best part of this team's success was watching each and every girl improve as the season went on," Fannon said. "I was honored to coach a group of young ladies

where each and every one had a great work ethic. Every single girl improved from last year. That was a huge part of our success."

"After last year's fourth place finish, going into the Northeast Georgia tournament undefeated was very exciting. In fact, we had not even dropped a set all year until the championship match."

Fannon credits aggressive, consistent serving for a large part of the team's success. Eighth grader Kate Blackburn led the team with a season high 144 aces, while getting 94.5% of her serves in. Offensively, eighth grader Ashley Crosby dominated up front with 125 kills and an impressive .398 hitting average. Crosby also had a team high 13 blocks. Blackburn and seventh grader Caroline Turpin led the team with 176 and 93 assists, respectively.

"All of these girls had an incredible season," Fannon said. They managed to exceed my expectations every time they stepped on the court. I will miss them so much and am grateful for being allowed the honor to be part of this program and the TFS family for the last two years."

almost **PERFECT**

17-0
regular season

Tri-State
conference
champions

Gainesville Area
champions

Northeast
Georgia
runner-up

22-1
final record



Left: Ashley Crosby was an imposing presence at the net.

Center: Coach Ashley Fannon works with the team during a time-out.

Right: Kate Blackburn in action.



◀ Anna Davis is one of six talented sophomores that form the foundation for a solid team next year.

Senior Katelyn Crosby was a big reason the team enjoyed such a stellar season. Crosby hit .359 with 15 kills and 11 digs in the state playoff game. She is pictured above on senior night.

Cross Country enjoys yet another banner season



Chris Geiger

After setting a new TFS Farm 3K course record at the Tri-State championship meet, eighth grader Chris Geiger ran in the Georgia Middle School Cross Country Championships in Cochran where he finished 16th of 168 small school division harriers.

TFS middle school boys and girls cross country teams earn Tri-State Conference championship titles

Middle school cross country enjoyed a stellar season which culminated in both the boys' and girls' squads winning Tri-State Conference championships. TFS defeated Highlands, Rabun Gap-Nacoochee, Summit Charter and Tamassee-Salem to take the titles.

Eighth grader Chris Geiger of Sautee-Nacoochee set the TFS middle school farm course record (11:04), according to Athletic Director Scott Neal. Runner-up eighth grader Hayden Johnson of Demorest and team captain eighth grader John Nichols of Clarkesville led TFS to a perfect score of six. Nineteen of the 20 boys ran for a personal record, Neal said.

TFS girls won by three points and were led by eighth graders Sophie Alexander and Laurel Smith and sixth grader Lucy Alexander. All three runners set personal

TFS boys and girls cross country teams also received the Tri-State Conference Sportsmanship Award

records during their Tri-State championship competition.

"The 2015 boys cross country team was the most competitive we've had in our middle school history," said Coach Scott Neal. "They won five of six meets, including the Tri-State Conference championship. The girls won five of their six meets and were led by sisters Sophie and Lucy Alexander."

"Chris Geiger finished the season in the top two all-time on the TFS middle school Legacy List. His 3k time was number one while his Georgia State Championship course two-mile time was number two."

Coach Neal also praised runners Hayden Johnson and John Nichols as being highly competitive throughout the entire season. "We had about 20 middle school boys who excelled at 'pack running,'" said Neal.



Tri-State Conference Champs!

photos courtesy Tammy Halbrook



Caleb Griffis

XO VARSITY

Youth leads the way as new generation of TFS runners hit the trail

Cross country Coach Scott Neal singled out the 2015 boys team as "the most competitive we've had in decades." The runners consistently ran team split times in less than one minute, which, according to Neal, "is excellent for a cross country team." Michael Weidner and Caleb Griffis led the team throughout the season as top runners but also inspiring team mates. 'Lifers' Cody Thomas and John Luke Gallagher have been in XC for seven years and provided the stability needed for the team to flourish.

On the ladies team youth also plays an important role. Sophomore Perry Gresham broke a 23-year old school record with her 21:55 performance at the Mountain Invitational in October. With two years remaining in her high school running career, Gresham will have ample opportunity to improve on her record-setting performance.

"Distinctly TFS is the four themed meets we host as a service to others, as a competitive endeavor, and as a memory machine," said Neal. "Team Leaders organize each meet, as well as every team function such as the annual camping trip and movie night. Each GREAT meet hosting opportunity allows for leadership qualities to be developed and demonstrated to visiting schools to capture what can be instead of just running at a meet."

"Whether inspiring the baking of 600 cookies, cutting out 600 quotes, arranging the donation of hay bales, announcing our service heroes, cooking from a dutch oven, or making unique awards, the team created a legacy of competitiveness and GREATness while bonding together for a season of significance."



Michael Weidner



Perry Gresham

Sophomore harrier Perry Gresham (above left) set a TFS girls school record at the North Georgia Invitational with a time of 21:55.



2015 Varsity boys and girls cross country teams

Varsity boys soccer

a program on the rise



Kee your eyes on the TFS varsity boys soccer team - it is a program on the rise. Fourth year Coach Jonathan Roberts has guided his team from a two win season four years ago to 11 victories this year. The 11-4-2 record this season is the best since 2009.

Coach Roberts is big on crunching the numbers and was quick to point out that the 2015 Indians scored the highest number of goals in program history and had the highest goal differential in TFS soccer history (81 goals scored while allowing only 21). Offensively the team averaged an impressive 4.76 goals per match. Equally as impressive, Roberts' team held their opponents scoreless in seven matches for the 2015 season.

"We've made great progress changing the culture of the program and we are determined to maintain and improve upon it," said Roberts. "I am very proud of this year's team and its accomplishments, along with the mental toughness we have developed."

"On behalf of the team, I would like to thank everyone who came out and supported us and persevered through the season," Roberts said.



Middle school coed soccer

Training ground for tomorrow's varsity stars

According to middle school coed soccer coach Zach Roland, this year's group of 25 sixth, seventh and eighth graders was the true definition of team. Though they only played six official games, Coach Roland's team worked very hard and improved individually and as a unit.

"Each grade was well represented having an equal number of sixth, seventh and eighth graders," said Roland. "Our record for the year was two wins, three losses, and one tie."

"This year's team had some very skilled and experienced eighth graders who will be missed next year, but has the advantage of having several sixth and seventh graders who are willing to work and improve and saw lots of playing time this year."

Coach Roland was quite proud of his young, scrappy team noting, "They got better with every practice and with every match. We were still improving up until the last whistle."



Coach Zach Roland is in his first year at Tallulah Falls School.



11-4-2
season record
81
goals scored
21
goals allowed

Coaching 'em up. Coach Roberts on the sidelines planning strategy.

Senior moment

It was a cold, wet and windy day at Amick Field, but an enthusiastic crowd braved the elements as five loyal seniors were honored during the last home game on October 27 versus Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School. Each senior was escorted to mid-field while the public address announcer continued a TFS tradition by recounting the player's favorite team memories and future plans. From left: James Davis, Denzel Green Wright, Ethan Johnson, Jerry Wei and Andrew Walker.



"We were still improving up until the last whistle."
Coach Roland



With 20 miles left to go, I was feeling a little run down but this group cheered me in from a quarter mile away. I thought there was a soccer game somewhere nearby. I could hear all this hootin' and hollering – turns out they were cheering for me. With service that rivals any 5-star hotel, I was refueled without having to even get off my bike. They cheered me on when I left like I was a rock star. This really boosted my energy level and morale. Thank you so much, ladies. I applaud your customer service."

Joey Brown, avid local cyclist who also planned all three routes, said, "I thought the ride went very well considering this was our first. I've received very positive comments from several riders. All the comments praised the routes, scenery, and how well organized the ride was."

"Many people said they would be back next year, which is the best compliment of all," he added.

We welcome your thoughts and comments and are determined to make the Twin Rivers Challenge the best ride in North Georgia. On behalf of Tallulah Falls School, we hope to see everyone again next year on Saturday, October 29 for the second annual Twin Rivers Challenge.

'thank you'

From everyone at Tallulah Falls School, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all our sponsors, supporters, volunteers and riders who helped make the inaugural Twin Rivers Challenge a huge success!

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THE TALLULAH FUND



FUND

Tallulah Falls School

2016

Tallulah Falls School is known for the excellence of the college preparatory education it provides. Highly skilled teachers, small classes, a supportive and safe learning environment and cutting edge technology give TFS students an advantage over their peers in their quest for success in college and in life.

Community service opportunities, athletics, fine arts, and a diverse student body with students from 18 countries give our scholars a well-rounded global perspective. Colleges and universities nationwide offer TFS seniors millions of dollars in college scholarships each year, tangible evidence that a TFS diploma is a valuable commodity.

Since Tallulah Falls School's founding in 1909, *The Light in the Mountains* has strived to provide a quality education to deserving students regardless of their ability to pay. We invite you to partner with us in supporting our dual mission of elevating intellect and developing character in our students. Your gift to *The Tallulah Fund*, regardless of the amount, will help each of our students to thrive in a close-knit community of learning and personal growth.

All of these facets that contribute to student success are costly. During this school year, Tallulah Falls School will spend an average of approximately \$39,000 per pupil to educate our students. Only about 20% of that cost will be covered by tuition revenue. In addition, roughly 70% of our students receive need-based financial aid and/or scholarship assistance to attend TFS.

Donors like you who contribute to *The Tallulah Fund* help us to provide our students with an educational experience that is both highly personal and challenging. Your gift can help our talented students to master the skills necessary to lead purposeful lives filled with merit and accomplishment.

In the coming weeks you will receive a personal invitation to invest in the mission of Tallulah Falls School through the 2016 Tallulah Fund. We hope you will join us as we begin this important campaign.

Contact Mike Dale, Director of Giving • mike.dale@tallulahfalls.org • (706) 839-2021



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