

Maplewood Today

A PUBLICATION KEEPING YOU INFORMED ABOUT MAPLEWOOD ACADEMY

FALL 2023



**YOUTH LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE**

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From the Principal

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Maplewood Academy: Nurturing Faith, Empowering Leaders

Dear Maplewood Academy Community,

As we embark on this new school year, our hearts are filled with joy and anticipation for the incredible mission opportunity that is Maplewood Academy. It's a privilege to serve alongside our dedicated staff, passionate students, and the unwavering alumni and the Minnesota Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Our spiritual theme for this year, "Not I, But Christ" (Galatians 2:20), resonates deeply with the mission of Maplewood Academy. That mission is to introduce and nurture a saving relationship with our Lord, Jesus Christ, in the hearts of our young people. Our school operates around the clock, 180 days a year, because we are deeply committed to shaping the future of our church and community.

We understand that we are able to make great strides because of you, our beloved constituency. We see Maplewood Academy as an opportunity to raise up future Church leaders, teachers, pastors, small group leaders, and tentmakers who will serve as the hands and feet of Jesus in this world. Our youth, when properly trained, can finish the work of proclaiming God's last-day



message, as eloquently expressed in this quote: "With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Savior might be carried to the whole world!" (*Messages to Young People*, p. 204).

This year, we're thrilled to share an exciting student leadership program in partnership with our local church members. The members are providing training programs to empower our students to lead praise team programs, emphasizing that they perform for Christ alone. The Minnesota church members' and pastors' commitment and dedication is inspiring, and we look forward to tapping into more of the members' strengths to provide spiritual guidance and skills in training the youth to fulfill the Great Commission.

However, it's important to acknowledge that running such programs comes at a cost, and we're immensely grateful to all those who faithfully give. Your financial support is vital for us to continue nurturing our students with the love of God. We understand that giving preferences may vary, but this year, our most pressing need is for Worthy Student scholarships. These scholarships make it possible for a significant percentage of our students to attend Maplewood Academy.

We're also excited to share that the cafeteria project is making significant progress. A new plan that aligns with the giving capacity of our constituency will be unveiled soon, thanks to your patience and support. Our facilities, though aging, have been maintained in the best possible condition through the support of the Minnesota Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and many generous donors. However, we do have big projects on the horizon, and giving to the Maplewood Fund not only ensures the longevity of our campus but also shows our students that they have a loving support system from the Minnesota Conference and our wide network of alumni. This support equips them with the best opportunities for their future as they walk in faith while attending Maplewood Academy.

We are excited about the work the Holy Spirit is doing in the hearts of our young people. Your continued support and prayers are deeply appreciated as we shape the future of our church and community.

May God's blessings abound in your lives and in the mission of Maplewood Academy.

In His service,

Jeremy Everhart

Maplewood Academy Principal





YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



I got an opportunity to go to a Youth Leadership Conference at Union College with some of the campus ministries team. When I was asked to go, I was not interested, because I heard the word "conference," so I assumed that there were going to be long talks about how we should be better people. It was also during a home leave, and I wanted to see my parents. So, I was not interested. But then my friends encouraged me to go. So, I listened to them, and I went. Our sponsors were Bill and Verna Mitchell. They helped us so much by driving us to Nebraska. They were a huge blessing, and they were so fun to be around! I really appreciate what they did for us. I love and appreciate them so much.

On my way to Lincoln, Nebraska, I prayed to God for this conference to be a blessing and not boring! Later that day, we had our first breakout session. I decided to go to a session that talked about forming and leading small groups. And guess what! I actually learned from that meeting!

After that day, I started to like it. I learned how to lead small groups, lead worship praise teams, be a music director, have a heart of worship, and—my favorite out of all of these—lead a congregation. Every night, we would have a worship service. My favorite part was when the praise team would come and praise God with music. Those worship songs were a huge blessing. If you don't know me, I love music and never in my 16 years of living on this earth have I ever felt God's presence through music. And when the praise team started singing and worshiping God, I felt His presence through music for the first time! It was amazing. And when I came back to school, I was on fire for Jesus! The Youth Conference really changed me and helped me understand how we should start training to lead and help the church, because in 20 years we will be the ones to help shine a light for Jesus! It is extremely important to start training the youth to help lead the church. And that is what Maplewood is for. They are here to help me understand how we must be a light to the world.

MAPLEWOOD ACADEMY RECEIVES AWARD

20 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

In a world filled with challenges and uncertainties, acts of kindness and goodwill shine even brighter. For two decades, Maplewood has been a Drop-Off Center for Operation Christmas Child, a heartwarming initiative that has touched countless lives around the globe. In October, Maplewood received a service award for their long-standing dedication to the mission.

Operation Christmas Child (OCC) is a transformative project from Samaritan's Purse that has been spreading joy, hope and the love of Jesus to children around the world since 1993. This remarkable initiative invites communities to come together, creating gift boxes filled with toys, school supplies, hygiene items, and a personalized note of encouragement. These boxes, offering a ray of hope during the Christmas season, are then shipped around the world.

Serving as a Drop-Off Center for OCC, Maplewood plays a significant role in collecting and contributing to this cause. Each year, during one week in November, the academy collects around 2,000 gift boxes that are packed into shipping cartons then loaded onto semi-trailers, whose drivers take the gifts on the first leg of their journey around the world.

In October, during a chapel service at the academy, a young man shared a powerful testimony of his childhood in Panama. He had received an Operation Christmas Child box, and he told the students how that experience changed his life and ultimately led him to God. His inspiring story exemplified the transformational power of these gift boxes.

Afterward, Laura Cummings, who has stood at the helm of this project at Maplewood, accepted the Samaritan Service Award on behalf of the academy for their 20 years of continued commitment to this mission. As they continue their ministry, Maplewood serves as an example of how a simple act of kindness can share messages of tangible love and care around the globe.



SENIOR PREVIEW



YOUTH LEADING AT MWA

Seeing the Lord work has to be one of the greatest privileges that there is. To see Him work here at Maplewood, in the lives of others, and in my own life, too, is such a blessing. We know that “if God is for us, then who can be against us” (Romans 8:31), and, as more and more students here decide to take a stand for Christ, it becomes evident that God is willing to do so much more than we could possibly imagine if we are willing to be used by Him.

We started our small groups Sabbath school program recently. I love small groups for many reasons, but one of the top reasons has to be the way that it teaches us to be spiritual leaders, in simple ways. It shows how it doesn't have to be all that complex. It is simply creating a space where people can feel comfortable to be themselves and talk about spiritual topics just amongst themselves. It offers a place where you can have people pray for and with you if you're going through something. Or perhaps it is just an environment to have fun and hang out after a long week. This is how we can be leading spiritually. This idea of leading spiritually can sound overwhelming, because we have made it to be something that it is not. I myself am learning how I can show Christ to

someone by simply smiling and asking how their day went, just as much as doing a Bible study with them might communicate God's love.

Being in a praise team has been a blessing to me. The students this year are able to lead out in worship during church services, and we are learning what it means to cultivate a heart of worship, to be praising God for the sake of praising Him and not performing for others. In doing so, the leaders end up being a huge blessing for others.

The small groups, praise team, vespers and many other activities are ways God has been working here, but the greatest thing I've seen is how He is moving and working upon our hearts individually. As we are beginning to choose, for ourselves, to walk with God, He starts doing marvelous things. This is where the power will come from. When each one of us starts to make God a personal God, it will be like a bunch of sparks that, when put together, will create a great flame that cannot be put out.

The best part is that it's only the first part of the year, so I can't wait to see how He is going to be working upon this campus moving forward.

During the last weekend of September, the senior class got the opportunity to visit Union College for their senior preview days. We spent time there from Thursday through Sunday, and it was a blast! We started off Thursday afternoon with campus tours, trivia, and scholarships. Then the hosts treated us to pizza and brownies, as well as to multiple choices for evening activities. A group of us went and watched the Warriors volleyball game, and others enjoyed time at the bouldering wall or exploring other parts of the campus. Our class especially loved putting together legos in the Don Love building. Friday morning we were given multiple different options to choose from to experience the different classes that Union has to offer, as well as sessions on financial aid or opportunities to drop by the campus store and use the discount coupons that they gifted us. This time was really helpful in getting to know Union's campus a little better and in exploring which majors might be the best fit for us.

After lunch, we got to see more of what Lincoln has to offer! We loaded up on the bus and were dropped off to downtown Lincoln at the Haymarket. We split into the groups we signed up in and were given a list to complete for a photo/video scavenger hunt. We ran back and forth around downtown taking pictures with Huskers' fans, in front of restaurants or murals, and doing the wave, etc. Our group from Maplewood was the first to complete all the picture and video requirements, and we all won Amazon gift cards! While we completed our scavenger hunt, the rest of our classmates embarked on their own exciting adventure. With the help of the International Rescue and Relief team at Union, a group of students got to rappel off of the Don Love Building. Both of the options for afternoon activities were so much fun, and we're very grateful that Union put in

the effort to make it such a great experience.

After our activities on Friday, we got ready for “Family Worship,” which is what Union calls their vespers. There was beautiful music and touching testimonies followed by prayer time outside with our classmates. We had great conversations together and also had great conversations with students from other schools. We had some time to bond with them throughout the weekend, and Friday night was a great connection time. The next day we got ready for church and experienced Sabbath School at “The Well,” along with a great main service from College View Church. We spent our Sabbath afternoon enjoying each other's company with good food at Mrs. Ybarra's house. She generously invited us all to her home and we had a great time there! For Saturday night, Union planned a bowling activity for the schools to attend and this was another great opportunity to get closer with the students from other schools. The weekend we had at Union was full of fun events, and we enjoyed getting a sneak peek into campus life during our



time there. When we loaded up Sunday morning to head back to Maplewood, I know we all left with good memories. Thank you, Union!

OUTDOOR SCHOOL AT NORTH STAR CAMP

Around a month ago, North Star Camp held an outdoor school, which I was fortunate enough to be a part of. During the first segment, I was put with the eighth graders: we measured trees and calculated their ages. After lunch, I was in charge of helping in the art program. The kids learned how to make origami boxes, which they used in a competition. They filled the boxes with water and emptied the water into buckets. There were tacks taped on the bottom of the buckets, and underneath were balloons. Whoever popped the balloons first got to pick an ornament to paint.

This was a very fun experience for me. I got to work with the kids and see them have fun in a God-filled environment. I hope that all of the children there were able to see God through their experience and grow closer to Him. Although we had to wake up early to be there on time, I am thankful that I went along.



FALL FESTIVAL

The fall season in the Midwest is a special time. Colorful trees line the river and streets with their leaves strewn everywhere. Pumpkins decorate doorsteps and crisp air fills your lungs as you stroll outside. Fall is also a great time to explore the plethora of fun activities available.

In the small town of Hutchinson, MN, a favorite event for students and families alike is the annual Fall Festival.

The campus of Maplewood Academy was buzzing Sunday, October 15, as students from Maplewood, along with students and their families from Northwoods Elementary and our local church joined for a combined event.

We began in the MWA ad building with songs and worship led by the Vliet brothers and their families. Everyone that came was then put into groups, given instructions, and then sent over to Northwoods Elementary school for games and activities. Each group rotated between four

different stations: musical chairs, gunny sack races, hay rides, and a fun rock, paper, scissor game that included hopping on hay bales. There were also two fire pit areas for those wanting to just sit, relax and mingle.

MWA cafeteria provided walking tacos for our main meal with the church, and Northwoods' families brought the desserts. Special drinks of apple cider and hot chocolate were offered.

For those who desired, there was a baking contest. There were 15 entries with prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. Our three judges were amazing and dressed up as the judges from "The Great British Baking Show."

The weather was beautifully sunny with a light breeze, which helped make the outdoor event a success, with more than 200 people in attendance. The event was enjoyable for all and a chance to grow as a Christian community.



Sports have a way of bringing people together and this was certainly the case at Union College during the soccer and volleyball tournaments this past October.

The tournaments were a fantastic showcase of athleticism, camaraderie, and school spirit. The weather was perfect and supporters from all over showed up in support of the students competing—creating an electrifying atmosphere (and homecoming for many) on Union's campus. The event was a true celebration of the spirit of competition, with athletes giving their all to secure the win, and the fans ramping up the excitement with cheers, cow bells, drums beating, and banners flying.

An extra special aspect of the tournaments this year was the mini reunion for the class of 1996 from Maplewood Academy. Nine graduates from '96 were together to support their own student athletes. We had so much fun sharing stories and reminiscing about our high school years. Being there together added a unique sense of nostalgia to the event, highlighting the enduring lifelong bonds that were formed during our years at Maplewood, bonds that our children are now forming with each other.

The soccer and volleyball matches were intense. Teams displayed remarkable skill and determination. The cheers from the stands were deafening and the spirit of unity among the fans, especially the MWA alumni, was palpable.

In between soccer matches, our classmates from '96, who were present on the field, came together for a group photo – we were even fortunate enough to have our class sponsors there, too! A true symbol of the enduring friendships forged at Maplewood. It was a powerful reminder of the lasting impact of our school years and the joy of passing this on to our children.

The tournaments at Union this year were not only a showcase of athletic talent, but also a heartwarming reunion with old friends and a celebration of the ties that bind a community together.



SPORTS

ALUMNI



Were you there? Did you come back? Did you see old friends? —enjoy the music? Explore the reasons you went to school there? I'm talking about Alumni Weekend at Maplewood Academy. It was held on September 21-24. If you missed it, you missed a great weekend! Let me tell you a little about it.

Hi, I'm Sandy Wood from the MWA Class of 1966. I am the current president of the Alumni Association. Let me share some of the highlights of Alumni Weekend.

If you arrived on Thursday afternoon or evening, you were invited to attend a "Welcome Home Reception." On Friday morning you could attend Chapel with the students, visit their classrooms, meet their teachers, and see how things have changed since you attended Maplewood. If you wanted to, you could take part in a Historical Hutchinson tour in the afternoon.

After supper in the cafeteria there was an Alumni Association meeting where the Capital Campaign for the new cafeteria was discussed. What to do with the current cafeteria to make it last until enough funds are raised to build the new one were also brought forward for discussion. The needs of the Worthy Student Funds were presented by the Minnesota Conference Treasurer. He also

commended Jeremy Everhart and the staff for their efforts to reduce expenses, The school has 70 students this year. The Association board also made a couple recommendations that were passed concerning the members of the board. If you would like to serve on the Alumni Association, please let us know.

Friday evening Vespers was a wonderful, meaningful program presented by the Class of 1973 (the 50-year class). It included the much anticipated musical numbers of past and present Choraliars members directed by Steven Zork (a former, much loved music teacher who taught here in the 70's). The members of the Class of 1973 also paid tribute to former teachers, classmates, parents, spouses, and children, interspersed with music numbers and scripture verses. A beautiful program.

On Sabbath morning after the roll call of honor classes, the Alumnus of the Year Award was presented to David Burghart, Class of 1965. David has done so much to promote Maplewood Academy. He has contacted countless former students, encouraging them to donate to worthy student funds, capital improvements, and the other needs of the school. He has also talked to businesses and organizations about Maplewood. We so much appreciate his dedication to Maplewood Academy.

After two beautiful numbers ("Psalm 23" and "Until I Reach My Home") by the past and present Choraliers, Kathy Parker Parke (Class of 1973) introduced the members of the discussion panel for the church service. They were Loren Dickinson ('50), Kermit Netteberg ('63), Vickie Cora Martin ('73), David Tenold ('83), Trista Nelson Ybarra ('94), Laura Cummings ('03), Bailey Dehning ('13) and Moises Cruz-Lopez ('23). The panel members were asked questions about their time at Maplewood and about how the experience affected their faith; what they were most grateful for about MWA; what some of the challenges they faced at Maplewood were; how Maplewood prepared them for college and life; what they missed most about MWA after graduation, and what advice they would give to the current students at Maplewood Academy.

To wrap everything up, Kermit Netteberg ('63) presented a short homily. He told a story about his senior year in Academy and how Elder Charles Felton, who was his instructor in Youth Guidance, offered him an A in the class. Because Kermit was involved in a lot of other things on campus, he was allowed to skip class whenever he felt it was necessary to complete other responsibilities. Kermit skipped class a lot and felt he didn't deserve that A, but, true to his word, Elder Felton gave him that grade. Kermit related this to our Heavenly Father who promises us eternal life if we will love and serve Him. Though we are not perfect and make many mistakes, God offers us grace through the life of Jesus Christ. It is a free gift! "What will you do with the gift that God offers?" was his question. The three verses Kermit used were John 3:16, Romans 6:23, and Ephesians 2:8. What a wonderful illustration of the Grace we receive from God.

After the homily, Dave Burghart blessed us with a solo of "The Lord's Prayer." As he played the baritone, he asked that we would all sing along. It was awesome!

While some of the classes met for their reunions on Sabbath afternoon, there was also an option for a music program at the church with the Choralier group and other performers. Clinton Anderson, who has been filling in for the music teacher who had not yet arrived on campus, was the director, and Steven Zork and his wife, Susan, also contributed. What a blessing to all in attendance.

The Sabbath Vespers program was held in the chapel and brought to a close a wonderful Sabbath. Afterwards, there was a short variety program.

As always on Alumni Weekend, there were basketball games played between alumni and present students. The girls' basketball team lost to the alumni, but the current academy boys' basketball team won their game.

Sunday morning offered many activities to choose from: a 5-K run, a golf tournament, and a motorcycle ride, plus a fundraising breakfast put on by the Senior class of 2024.

Please remember Maplewood Academy, its students and its faculty, and the many needs that the school has in your prayers. Continue to support Maplewood and its programs. Remember your time there and what a blessing the school is to our young people.

Next year, plan to attend Alumni Weekend. It's a great event!

HOMECOMING '23



1953



Wesley Nelson

1958



Sharon Andersen Johnson, Janet Jarnes Camp, Evelyn Johnson Swanson, Sharon Burr Sly-Durante, Carolyn Sherwood Millard

1963



1st Row: Sandra Burr Lonnstrom, Nilan Brown Roberson, 2nd Row: Patricia Horst, Henrietta Opp, Yvette Petersen Clevenger, 3rd Row: Leroy Wood, Larry Reed, Roger Bowie, Kermit Netteburg

1968



Jill Houston Mattson, Larry Christensen, Dotty Hammerback

1973



1st Row: Holly Hollenbeck Olberg, Debbie Roderick Goble, Laurie Jarnes Brown, Shanda Juhl Morrison, Janene Pettis Rick, Fonda Blake Harris, Susan Limesand-Herber, Verna Pegel Mitchell, Vickie Cora Martin, Barry Mosier, Keith Christiansen, 2nd Row: Nola Wehling Thom, Alice Nelson Garrett, Dawn Fredeen Herman, Nancy Goff, Holly Johnson Beck, Sonja Forde Shuck, Cheryl Larson Syverson, Barbara Hill Reeve, Kathy Parker Parke, 3rd Row: Randy Heinbaugh, Gary Herman, Robert Beck, Daniel Miller, Herbert Hailey, Rocky Anderson, Bryce Bray, David Weber

1978



Melvin Pervis, Sandi Sullivan Blake, Eric Emerson, Kim Anderson Wooster, Richard Weber

1983



1st Row: Miriam Griffin, Julie Reed Olson, Myrna Jacobs Beachy, Evelyn Bacon Barnes, Angela Bowen Juhl, 2nd Row: David Tenold, Mark Learned, Mark Murray, Jim Alder, Jennifer Fankhanel Sweet, Ryan Pestes

1988



Kimberly Anderson Wood

1993



Cammie Booth Johnston, Kari Schebo, Mike Long, Kendra Pettis

1998



James Kozik, Ranae Heinbaugh Long, Matthew Liepke

2003



1st Row: Laura Cummings, Angie Rosales Quiroz, Danelle Bowles Herra, 2nd Row: Jonathan Van Arsdale, Marleigh Rannow Van Arsdale, Aubrey Clay, James Hilliard, JoBeth Skelley, Melissa Lesofski Gollehon, 3rd Row: Joshua Fleming, Caleb Heinrich, Jason Reynolds

2013



Jordan Kaldahl, Bailey Dehning, Justin Hieb

2018



1st Row: Josiah Miller, Adriana Sanchez Lehman, Lorna Biyogo, Olivia Ogwangi, Alondra Tayrus, 2nd Row: Maricel Velasquez, Rebecca Denniston, Seth Martin, Hannah Houchins Martin, Zena Charles, Paweh Nei Ser





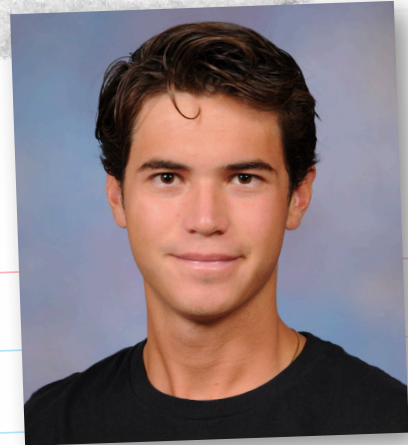
MAPLEWOOD
ACADEMY

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

BRENT LANE '92

Sad farewell



The Caleb Long Memorial Scholarship honors one of our graduates whose short life exemplified the ideals of Maplewood Academy. Caleb was raised in Hutchinson, Minnesota, by parents Mike and Lisa (and later joined by younger sister Ella). He went to Northwoods Elementary through 8th grade and attended Maplewood Academy for four years, graduating in 2021. Caleb then extended his education at Union College as part of the Biomedical Program, and had been one of a select number of applicants accepted to Union's Physician Assistant program for 2024.

Tragically, in November of 2023, Caleb was killed as the result of a motorcycle accident in Lincoln, Nebraska. His loss is devastating to his family as well as to his friends and mentors in both the Union College and Maplewood Academy communities.

Caleb was known as a bright, studious, hard-working young man who was also quick to laugh and show kindness to others. While at Maplewood he worked at the Harmony River retirement home in Hutchinson, gently serving the elderly residents with Godly compassion.

He was a good friend, an excellent athlete, and the type of person whose presence and quiet influence uplifted those around him.

"Caleb Long was a dedicated and caring young man," recalls Maplewood teacher Linda Vigil. "I enjoyed working with him in Bible class because he showed an honest commitment to God. His senior year he shared the following in an assignment and it truly reveals his character: 'I am sure that I am going to get into trouble or hurt or offend people at some point in life. I want to be able to be like Jesus and show love even to the enemy. I never want to be the person that gets angry and fights back. I want Jesus to shine through me, so that I can treat others like He did.'"

While Caleb's life on this earth was cut short, we await that great heavenly reunion and pray that it's soon. In the meantime, we honor Caleb and commit to furthering his legacy by using this scholarship to invest in another generation of Maplewood students. May they be inspired by Caleb's ambition, determination, and kindness and honor God with their lives as he did.

Donations can be made at maplewoodacademy.org