

Maplewood Today

A PUBLICATION KEEPING YOU INFORMED ABOUT MAPLEWOOD ACADEMY SUMMER 2022



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From the Principal

Maplewood Academy successfully concluded another school year, and we feel blessed to have had such a great group of students and faculty. Ending a school year is always a bitter-sweet experience with the pride of everything that has been accomplished mixed with the sadness of the permanent disruption of the MWA family group of 2021-2022, never to be the same again. We look forward to staying connected with our class of 2022 as God continues the great work that He has begun in their lives. We will always have our memories of this year that God designed for us to experience together as a family. I am grateful to have a few surreal memories that clarified in my mind what Adventist education at a boarding Academy is all about.

Early in the school year, I was on duty for recreation on a Monday evening. The scheduled activity was a game of ultimate frisbee. If you have never watched this type of sport before, it's an entirely self-regulated game without referees. Ultimate frisbee is governed by a tradition of sportsmanship that places the responsibility for fair play on the players rather than referees. The game was new for many and required more exertion and endurance than the students possessed. The two teams involved struggled with motivation even to play the game. They were almost just as happy to stand and talk rather than running and competing. Measure that experience to the last week of school. Two teams played each other for almost an hour non-stop. The spirit was lively, and peals of laughter and shouts of effort were heard throughout the game. A few students who had missed the game signup to play came to see if there were still spots for them to join. I couldn't help but reflect on the massive change in unity and fitness level needed to play for such a duration. All students walked away from that evening flush with the effort level and happily talking to each other. It was a competition where all participants came out with a winner.

The second memory that stands out was the last scheduled weekend activity before the Sunday graduation. This year MWA broke from tradition and allowed all grades 9-12 to stay for graduation weekend. After the year-end video, we were provided with one more opportunity to sign each other's yearbooks. I



was signing one last yearbook for the evening. A general uproar went up when the lights flickered, signaling an end to the evening schedule. A teary-eyed teacher volunteered to take over supervision and allow the students to continue for another hour and forty-five minutes. It didn't matter that the students had been signing this year's yearbooks for a couple of weeks now; the MWA family just needed more time together, writing messages which will be read and reread over the years to come. They recognized that the bonds that they had made with their fellow students in their time at Maplewood are to be cherished.

These are your children, Lord, and we are privileged just to be a part of your work. This school year felt all the more successful due to simply returning to normal operations that we had not seen since the onset of COVID-19 in 2020. We were able to host the Minnesota Youth Worship Experience and the Pathfinder Fair. We were able to invite students on to campus for the Minnesota Elementary Music Fest and Academy Days. Getting reconnected with our Seventh-day Adventist church provided a greater sense of unity and understanding of the purpose of what we do at MWA. I love Adventist Education at Maplewood Academy, because God works on the hearts of his children, who are quickly growing up and will become the future of His Church. It takes a conference to support an academy, and it's an academy that is designed to provide an environment for the youth of the Minnesota Conference to create or maintain a saving relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We need your prayers and support. Please especially keep in prayer the young person that you can encourage to come to Maplewood Academy for the 2022-2023 school year.

God Bless!
Jeremy Everhart
Principal of Maplewood Academy

Helping with Academy Days this year was something that will definitely be memorable. Because of the pandemic taking over the past few years I, and a lot of other freshmen and sophomores, did not have the chance to have an in-person Academy Day experience. I was grateful for the opportunity to help out and meet all the students who came and somewhat experienced Academy Days.

During Academy Days, we had a number of 7th-11th graders come and stay on campus for a few days. Most of the Academy Day kids stayed in the dorm with some of the Maplewood students in both the girls' and boys' dorms. On the first day after the welcoming event, the kids were able to enjoy a fun game of bubble soccer. The students were running around in bubbles trying as hard as they could to get the soccer ball from each other. It was highly entertaining to watch! Afterwards, in the girls' dorm, the girls were able to play a scavenger hunt game to get to know everyone and all about the dorm. At the end, the prospective students were awarded coupons to the dorm store to get something for a dollar off! The next day, all the students were gathered into the library to play a game about the history of Maplewood Academy (My team won!). There were questions like . . . When was MWA founded? How many village students are there? And more. Since that week was also week of prayer, we then went to listen to Pastor J-Fiah Reeves' worship

ACADEMY DAYS

talk for chapel. We then gave a tour around the whole campus to the students, taking time at each station to take pictures with the staff if they were there. Once we reached the library, the students were able to try for a scholarship by doing tests that were designed by a teacher of each subject. After lunch, a student panel was put together to answer different questions the students wanted to know about MWA. For example, the visitors asked questions like, What's your favorite class? And then came everyone's favorite part of the day before the award ceremony: bowling. Everyone, except the juniors who were practicing for their junior benefit, loaded the bus and headed for the bowling alley. Everyone had a great time there. The Academy Day students were also able to get closer to the Maplewood students there.

But sadly, all good things must come to an end. After heading back to campus, the award ceremony happened, and the students who were not planning on staying for the weekend packed and got ready to head back home. I enjoyed having all the students come to hang out with us for a few days, and I definitely hope I get to see them here at Maplewood Academy one day soon.



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PACKING & UNPACKING Dreams

It was the fall of 1969 and I'd made a decision. I would leave public school and gain my high school education via Home Study Institute. I wanted an Adventist high school experience—although, home study wasn't what I had been dreaming of. No...for years I had been dreaming of attending my parents' and grandparents' alma mater, Maplewood Academy. I recalled hearing how my grandpa Helmer Andersen's Danish immigrant family had moved all the way from Nebraska to Maple Plain in 1924, just so their children could attend Maplewood Academy. My grandma, Hazel Stringer (Andersen), shared many fond memories of Maplewood, attending both Maple Plain and Hutchinson. Of course, Maplewood is where Grandma and Grandpa had met—like so many other couples have through the years. I'd also heard the story of my parents, Vernon Parker and Myrna Andersen, attending Maplewood. Mom was a more serious

student, but Dad had a great many "fun" stories to tell about his Maplewood years! After meeting at Maplewood, they married and loved each other through nearly 68 years of marriage. They'd still be counting if it weren't for my dad's passing this spring.

Yes, I wanted to continue the family tradition and have my own Maplewood stories to tell! I had pored over the Maple Leaf newspapers every month, eagerly reading of Maplewood events and news. It all sounded like SO MUCH FUN! Most interesting to me were senior sketches that I perused, learning about each and every senior...and dreaming of a time when I might have my photo and senior sketch printed in the Maple Leaf. But this was seemingly not to be.

Maplewood was expensive, and, coming from a large family with a small income, it just wasn't feasible.

Tom Hinde, Maplewood Vice Principal, even made the 250 mile trip to our farm to talk with my parents and me. He thought I should be at Maplewood. Members of our little Northome Church thought I should be at Maplewood, too – members like Dr. Gordon and Marjorie Franklin, also Maplewood alumni. My parents thought I should be there, too, but the financial dilemma was real, and thinking I should be there didn't put me there. I packed up my Maplewood dreams and

tucked them aside. Unbeknownst to me, though, all these people who thought I should be at Maplewood were working behind the scenes.

As I sat at home, during the first day of my home study "school," a sense of sadness and loneliness overcame me. As I sat alone, there were students 250 miles away who were having FUN! They were having adventures! They were enjoying a spirit of camaraderie that I could only dream of. I sat gazing out our living room window, totally lost in self-pity for my plight. But then I saw a car coming up our long driveway, a cloud of dust swirling behind it. That moment my life changed...FOREVER!

The occupant of the car was Dr. Franklin, coming to say that they had worked out a way for me to attend Maplewood Academy! Local church support combined with Maplewood scholarship funds could assist my parents in making my dream come true! What a whirlwind of activity commenced! There were clothes, linens and bedding, and a myriad of sundries to acquire and pack...and I unpacked my Maplewood dreams, ready to make those dreams a reality!

When I arrived at Maplewood, I was excited and I was terrified! I was all on my own away from home! Being an introvert, I worried about making friends. My mom left me a large bag of white chocolate candies. The first few days I only went to classes and work as I was too timid to go to the cafeteria. That white chocolate came in handy, but it wasn't going to last forever! Then, on Friday night, a couple of fellow freshmen in the dorm room next door asked me if I wanted to have supper with them at the cafeteria. Did I?! They didn't have to ask me twice! That's when Vickie Cora (Martin) and Mary Knutson became such dear friends. They rescued me from certain starvation! We had a lot of fun times after that, and we still have fun together half a century later. In 2023, we will be the 50-year class, and, when we're together, it seems like we're still academy students in the 1970s!

I often reflect on the impact that Maplewood has had in my life. Certainly, I learned more about God's love, but it also gave me life-long friends and memories of fun times together engaging in activities like the school-opening handshake, Sunshine Bands, musical events, banquets and Maple Leaf campaigns. And then there was the annual ski trip to Powder Ridge: I had no clue how to ski, so I went to the top, lined up my skis to be perfectly parallel, and headed

straight down the hill. I picked up a lot of speed and my friends thought I was going to fly right through the lodge! I never did learn how to ski, but all the other memories made and skills acquired gave me a strong foundation for life after Maplewood. And I DID get to see my photo and senior sketch in the Maple Leaf! I will be forever grateful to those who made my Maplewood dreams a reality! Every time I donate to Maplewood scholarship funds, I pray that some young person will have that same realization of their dreams for Maplewood!

The takeaway from my Maplewood experience is that we all make a difference, whether we're faculty who make a special effort to connect with a student, church members who support the youth, alumni with donations that make dreams come true for today's students, or students who welcome a newcomer—everyone makes a difference! Our investment in Maplewood is an investment in our future leaders, an investment that will last for eternity as it continues to ripple on in its influence!

Let's support our school as much as we can, whether it be a monthly donation to the scholarship fund or a larger donation to the new cafeteria fund. Every young person who wants to be at Maplewood should be there! Let's contribute to the continued success of one of the oldest Adventist academies in the world. With nearly a century and a quarter behind us, let's ensure that the next century is cut short only by the arrival of our Savior!

We look forward to seeing each of you at Maplewood Academy Alumni Weekend on September 22–25, when we'll relive old memories and create some precious new ones!

Kathy Joy Parke, MWA Alumni Association President

Kathy Joy (Parker) Parke, a 1973 Maplewood graduate, is a retired nurse, medical office manager and medical software consultant. She enjoys preparing historical displays for Maplewood alumni weekends and Minnesota camp meetings, and she hosts a website for Minnesota Seventh-day Adventist history, where many of the Maplewood yearbooks, newspapers, photos, and more can be found: www.mnsdahistory.org. Kathy also has authored several articles for the online Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists, including one on the history of Maplewood Academy: <https://encyclopedia.adventist.org/>



It started out on a dark morning in the middle of March. Six students and four sponsors rose from their slumber to a chilly dawn, loaded luggage into three vehicles, and started off on an eight-hour trip that would lead them to Hermosa, South Dakota. They arrived after dark, just in time to catch the bright stars peeking through the clear sky. And, of course, it was back to sleeping again after a long day of travel.

When I imagined going on my first mission trip with Maplewood Academy, I envisioned warm sunny skies, an ocean breeze, and humidity almost beyond tolerance. When I signed up for the mission trip of 2022, I realized I would be in for quite the opposite of what I had pictured. South Dakota, as you know, is a northern Midwest state. And what do you find in a northern Midwest state in the middle of March? Snow. There is snow.

For 10 days we made the Black Hills Health Center our home. Breakfast started at 7:30 and work started around 8:45. After

breakfast, before work, we were welcomed into staff worship. Then after a song, prayer, and worship thought, we 10 from Maplewood were divided up with different work assignments. The biggest projects were cleaning out the garden store, replacing siding on one of the lodges, and putting down new boards on a deck. We took turns going from job to job, helping out wherever we could. Jody Bertness, Maplewood's food director, was in charge of the kitchen for those ten days, so there were always a few of us helping keep everyone fed. We also helped out in the greenhouse and library. It was a lot of fun helping finish projects that would have taken the staff there a much longer time to finish.

There were a few days of our trip when we were able to go sightseeing and explore the Black Hills. We visited Mount Rushmore (originally known by the Lakota as Tunkasila Sakpe Paha, or Six Grandfathers Mountain), the Crazy Horse memorial, the Wind Caves, Sylvan Lake, and one of the animal loops that allowed us

to view South Dakota's wildlife from the safety of our van. It was a good thing that we were in the car, because, at one point, we had a staredown with a bison! We were also there for two Sabbaths, so we students participated in the church services. Another thing we kids enjoyed was climbing up to a peak that overlooked the whole Center. And for whatever reason, even after the really long days of working hard outside, most of us went to the Center's gym and worked out! How's that for an example of us being crazy teenagers?

All too soon our time in the Black Hills came to a close and we had to say goodbye. I was ready to go back home, but it was hard to leave such a beautiful place. The people we met there...I hope we will be able to see them again sometime soon. And so, exhausted but happy, memories forever locked in our minds, we headed back home. I can't wait for the next Maplewood mission trip!

Mission

Trip





Art

See more student art on page 17



When we decided as a class that we were officially going to Florida for our class trip, it shocked me, because I never thought that plan would actually get accepted. It honestly worried me, too, because we didn't quite have the money we needed for a trip like that, but we pulled it off by raising about \$3500 more before we left for Florida.

While we were down there, we did fun things like playing paintball, visiting arcades, shopping, walking, going to the beach, and just being together as a class. We bonded in a way that we hadn't bonded before. We drove a lot and would argue about who got the front seat, but, beyond that, we all had the time of our lives and got to hang out and grow closer to one another.

The day we got there, we split into two groups, one going to paintball and the other to "Main Event," which is an arcade in Orlando. The second day we went to an amusement park called "Fun Spot," where we all rode go karts and roller coasters until we couldn't do so anymore. Then the last day, we went to Clearwater Beach, where we hung out in the water and ate one last big meal as a class. In the very little extra time we had, we went to Disney Boulevard and shopped with friends.

We stayed in the Forest Lake Academy dorms and hung out in the lobbies super late, because we didn't want to say goodnight to each other. This trip was more fun than we thought it could have been, and there was barely a sliver of stress that we had to deal with. Thanks to our amazing sponsors and classmates, we had a beyond successful 2022 senior class trip!



Class trip

Class of 2022



This year's class of '22 has been through thick and thin together. We have grown so close and connected in a way that is unimaginable. Not only did we connect with each other, but all of the students and staff at school became our second family. This last weekend, though, we had to say our goodbyes.

Graduation lasted all weekend for the first time in 3 years. We started on Friday with our appreciation vespers, where we all received or gifted flowers to another student or staff member who means something to us. Sabbath, we had church in the gym, and Mr. David Dickerson spoke to us about friendship and how we can impact someone just by talking to them. During these two days, we enjoyed fellowship, music, and some of the final memories we will make on the Maplewood campus during our high school careers.

Sunday was graduation day. We all woke up early to get ready and to pick up our caps and gowns. We all met up at the pond to take our group photo and do one last huskies cheer before we received our diplomas. We all walked as a group to the side of the gym, where we waited to walk up onto that graduation stage. All of us anxious, excited, and as sad as ever friends made it to the stage and listened to our beloved Bible teacher and commencement speaker, Mrs. Linda Vigil, tell us about our 4 years here at MWA and about how precious our gifts here on earth are. We then had the privilege to receive many awards and tokens of appreciation from our own staff, as well as from representatives of colleges and universities.

Once we all received our diplomas, we went outside to congratulate one another, take a few more pictures, and say one last goodbye. After lots of tears and such a memorable high school experience, we all departed for home! Thank you to everyone that has impacted our experience here and anyone who helped us plan and accomplish everything this year! We will miss you lots, Maplewood!



A BRIGHT FUTURE

The future is looking especially bright for our recent graduate, Anders Swanson-Lane (class of 2022). Anders took the ACT test for the first time and earned a score that ranked him in the top 1% of the two million test takers of the ACT entrance exam. This translates into free tuition to many different colleges and universities around the nation.

If you've met Anders, you know that he is as humble and down-to-earth as they come. His high academic achievements, while important to him, are not likely to come up in his conversations. But what you will clearly see when you get to know Anders is his genuine care for others and his growing relationship with God.

While at Maplewood, Anders planned spiritual programs on our Campus Ministries team, played in intramural sports, and canoed the Boundary Waters for Outdoor Education class. He toured with the handbell choir and worked as a tutor in the dorms, as well as working for the maintenance department. He is a well-rounded young man in his passions, experiences, and activities.

Anders is a shining example of why I think Adventist education works. Our goal is and should continue to be to educate the whole person—mentally, spiritually, and physically, as well as academically. In the book *Education*, Ellen White says, "Our ideas of education take too narrow and too low a range. There is need of a broader scope, a higher aim. True education means more than the pursuit of a certain course of study. It means more than a preparation for the life that now is. It has to do with the whole being, and with the whole period of existence possible to man. It is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers. It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service to the world to come" (131).

The students at Maplewood grow spiritually through classrooms that are Jesus-infused. Teachers give worship and pray in their classes. Students get involved in planning and leading worship services.

This is a safe environment where they can grow as Christians together.

The students also learn valuable social skills and independence while growing up on a boarding school campus. For four years, the students live, communicate, and work together, forming a tight-knit family atmosphere and friendships that last a lifetime. Teachers become mentors and get to know the students outside of the classroom. Living in the dorms, the students learn self-motivation, responsibility, and study habits that better equip them for life in college.

Community service projects and mission trips help teach the students how to practically put their love for God into action. The work/study program gives students work experience and the chance to build work skills to carry into future careers.

With God's help, Maplewood is educating our young men and women for eternity. I hope you get to someday meet Anders or one of our other Maplewood students and get to hear firsthand their testimonies of their experience with Adventist education.

Anders is planning to attend Union College in the fall, where he will study Exercise Science. We are all very proud of him and are excited to see the path God leads him on.



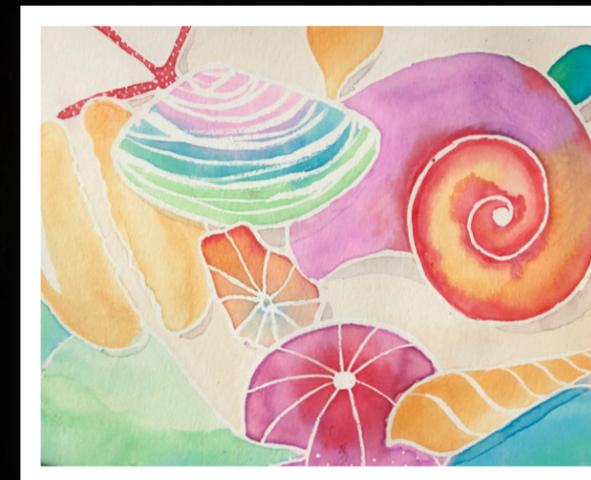
Jr. Benefit

Junior benefit was a fundraising event that was hosted by the junior class of 2022, and the class was able to raise \$1,101. The students did a play named "The Balloon Party," which mainly focused on the spiritual gifts we receive from God. The play talks about how we treat our gifts and how God wants us to use the gifts that he gave us. The play's theme was that you might be a burnout, full of advice, ignorant, selfish, a quitter, proud, allergic, bold, or shy, but God will help you through those traits so that you can show your gifts.

The junior class worked as a group and tried their best in the play. Their class sponsors were Mr. Everhart, Dean Alea, and Ms. Cummings. Mr. Everhart is the principal, so it is understandable if he doesn't have enough time to supervise the class

during their practices, but his business didn't stop him from doing his best to show up to practices. Dean Alea was very committed, too, since the class practiced during her time off, but that didn't stop her from being there for the class on her days off and painting the background. And we shouldn't forget Ms. Cummings: Because of her diagnosis of cancer, we didn't see her in person for the most part, but she was always asking if we needed help with anything. And after she came back, she went into doing her best for the class and supervised them in their practices. The junior class was considerate of this situation, so they tried their best to not ask for help from their sponsors unless they needed it. The junior class would like to say thank you to all the sponsors and other staff members who went out of their way to help make the event possible.

This year I got the opportunity to be in Art 1, and it was one of the best classes I've taken at Maplewood. I really enjoyed being in art class because it brought me peace. Mrs. Elmer helped me rekindle my love for art. She taught well, which I noticed helped everyone in class. She also encouraged me and my other classmates to keep going and gave us advice on how to improve, which I found really helpful, and, because of that, I gained confidence in my art and stopped doubting myself. Not only was she a good art teacher, she also had a love for God that I could see through her words and actions. Every day before we started class, she would begin with a worship thought and prayer, and I loved how she would talk about simple yet powerful reminders of God. She made me want to become a better artist and individual as well. She made the class fun and worthwhile. I'm usually not a morning person, but this class was my favorite part of my morning. With the help of Mrs. Elmer, I felt like I improved my art skills so much; she helped not only me, but those who do not even like art, and I think that says a lot about the teacher. I'm going to miss having art class, especially with Mrs. Elmer.



FINANCIAL Update

As the school year is being closed out and preparations are made for the next, I want to again thank the alumni, parents, and donors for their support of Maplewood Academy, for the time, effort, and funds you contribute to accomplishing the mission of this academy. Final figures aren't yet available for the fiscal year, but I expect MWA to be a little over budget. This was our first year without debt, and it was running on tuition and fees that hadn't increased from the previous year. Headwinds encountered during this school year include rising costs in multiple areas and unexpected repair bills for facilities (primarily the café). Due to the increased costs being experienced, it was decided to raise tuition and fees, which means a dorm student will be looking at an estimated cost for tuition and fees of \$19,100. In contrast, a community student will face an estimated bill of \$12,100. This is an increase of \$1,200 for a dorm student and a \$700 increase for community students for the 10-month school year.

I had an exchange recently with a former classmate of mine and they contended that SDA education was past its expiration date. He is a firm believer in finding a public school that meets one's expectations and enrolling the kids, which he has done. I think part of the problem is one of identity for us as a church, but also as an SDA educational institution. If our schools are merely a reflection of the public system with a dash of Adventism, then my classmate has a point. We don't have the money to compete with government coffers, so we are a poorer imitation. If our schools are to set their own course based on the light given, to be distinct, with a focus on preparing students for this life and the one to come, then we have something unique to offer; we have a way to differentiate our product. I have been working through the book *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, which I'd encourage you to read, too, and I ran across these two paragraphs recently:

We are under solemn, sacred covenant to God to bring up our children, not for the world, not to put their hands into the hands of the world, but to love and fear God and keep His commandments. We are to instruct them to work intelligently in Christ's lines, to present a noble, elevated Christian character to those with whom they associate. For this reason, our schools have been established, so that youth and children may be so educated as to exert an influence for God in the world. Then shall our schools become converted to the world and follow its customs and fashions?

When those who have reached the years of youth and manhood see no difference between our schools and the colleges of the world, and have no preference as to which they attend, though error is taught by precept and example in the schools of the world, then there is need of closely examining the reasons that lead to such a conclusion. Our institutions of learning may swing into worldly conformity. Step by step, they may advance in the world, but they are prisoners of hope, and God will correct and enlighten them and bring them back to their upright position of distinction from the world (289-290).

One thing that stood out to me was institutions being "prisoners of hope." The apostle Paul uses the term prisoner of Christ in reference to himself. Some of this was no doubt in reference to being placed in prison for preaching the Gospel. But I believe another equally accurate inference is possible, one where Paul's heart is captive to Christ. He had tasted and seen, and his heart would no longer be "free" to pursue goals or desires contrary to Christ; it was held firmly by the love of Christ. This is our goal, for Maplewood students to become so in love with Christ that nothing else compares, that their hearts are held captive to Christ. Thank you for supporting that goal.



Needs are growing

The need for a new cafeteria seems to be growing monthly. This spring we've encountered everything from water seeping up through the floor in our bakery and water leaking from the ceiling into the dining room and kitchen areas to both our freezer and refrigerator going down within weeks of each other. Over our April spring break our freezer went down for the second time this year. This time, several parts in the compressor had failed and we were not able to get it fixed for five days. The situation could have been much worse, but, thankfully, Vicky Fogg and I had decided to come in over break to blanch and freeze some donated potatoes. God blessed us that day, because, if we hadn't come in that Friday, I would have come in Monday morning to a terrible mess and all the food would have been a complete loss. We caught the problem in time to save a portion of the food, but much of it had to be thrown out, including several cases of food that had just been delivered for Men's Retreat. Due to some quick thinking and the kindness of the Vigil's using their own personal freezer, we were able to save the chili beans we had been so diligently working on for Camp Meeting. Then in May, the weekend before graduation, our refrigerator went out on a Friday afternoon. There was

a huge leak in a part that wasn't replaceable until Monday. Once again, we did our best to save what we could, but still many things had to be thrown out. I want to thank our wonderful Maplewood staff for stepping in and always being there to help the kitchen personnel when things get rough, from helping to clean out the freezer and haul stuff to the dumpster to helping me out when I'm not able to serve students a meal because of equipment failures. It's been a challenging environment to work in, but I love Maplewood's students and staff and I would like to see us thrive. This campus is a safe haven for our children in a wicked world. We may not be perfect, but you can feel the Holy Spirit doing a good work here. The staff here dedicate their lives to teaching, praying for, and spiritually feeding your children, but we need to feed their bellies as well as their souls. Please prayerfully consider this when you decide to donate to Maplewood. Thank you.



BY ANNIKA SWANSON-LANE '24

ecads

Escuela de Capacitación Adventista Salvadoreña (ECAS) is an Adventist boarding school in El Salvador. During our fall week of prayer, our speaker Dennis Page told us about this school and how important it is to the students and families there. The yearly tuition there is around one-tenth of what it is here, but, much like Maplewood, not everyone has the funds to pay it. As Pastor Page told us about their school, he also raised us a challenge: what if we could raise enough money to pay one student's tuition? Every

Sabbath, we took up an offering for the ECAS student we chose to sponsor and, within 4 months, we had raised enough to support her for an entire year. Our whole school worked together to raise these funds, and we were so excited when we found out we had raised enough. Beyond that, three anonymous Maplewood students were able to gift tuition to three more ECAS students for a year! We are all so grateful to be able to bless a student in the same way that many of you bless us.



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ACADEMY

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

BY LAROBA ABDALLA '23

Laroba Abdalla

Hi, my name is Laroba Abdalla. I have attended Maplewood Academy for the last three years. Before attending Maplewood Academy, I went to Christian private schools my whole life. So Maplewood, a small and private SDA school, makes me feel at home.

Since Maplewood is such a small school, the teachers and students bond and get to know each other, as many say, it's like a big family. I have been part of lots of various programs and teams at Maplewood Academy. The first program that I was a part of was choir and Choirleaders. Freshman year was enjoyable. I loved most, if not all, of the songs we sang. I still remember being a shy freshman and not knowing the notes or the different parts, like when we were to sing in unison, or bass, or bass and tenor. One of the older students would help me out with what I wasn't quite getting. One of the many things that I've noticed at Maplewood is that the student body is like one big family, and everyone helps everyone else out.

I've also joined both the soccer and basketball teams. It's enjoyable to be on these teams. My favorite part is probably the tournament. We get to hang out with students that aren't in our own class and get to know them. A tournament is always fun because of the overall experience.

