

# TIFTAREA Academy

COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE



Panther Perspective Vol 1





*Tiftarea Academy believes strongly in its motto; "Committed to Excellence," by creating a Christian based learning environment and promoting lifelong learning through academics, physical fitness, and school activities that enrich the curriculum.*

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Tiftarea Academy  
3144 Highway 41 North  
Post Office Box 10  
Chula, GA 31733  
Phone: (229)382-0436  
Fax: (229) 382-7742  
Email: Hfletcher@tiftarea.org



## FROM THE HEADMASTER

Dear Friends of Tiftarea Academy,

Let me begin by saying how fast my first year as Headmaster has passed. I cannot say enough about the hospitality shown to me by the TA family and I am honored to now be a part of it. I am extremely proud of the excellent work being done throughout the school—in the classrooms, sports fields and beyond. I am thankful for the amazing people and resources God has blessed Tiftarea Academy with.

This year marked the beginning of our Annual Fund. We set out to raise \$85,000 to be put toward added storage space and improved and upgraded technology and campus security. We reached our fundraising goal and accomplished those three initiatives. I am extremely proud of what we have been able to accomplish this year—many of our various achievements are displayed throughout the pages of this inaugural issue of "The Panther Perspective." However, we will not be content with where we are. We will keep evolving and improving to meet our students' needs.

This school belongs to everyone, and it is primarily through the generous donations to our Annual Fund that the school continues to prosper and transform the lives of families. These partnerships are vital to our mission, and we look forward to many years of sustained growth.

Thank you for your support and dedication to Tiftarea Academy. We are who we are because of you.

Sincerely,

*Stacey Bell*  
Headmaster



# HIGHLIGHTS



## 1ST ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT A SUCCESS!

In August, we held our first annual Golf Tournament and Tournament Bash! Over 25 teams competed in the tournament and we had a great showing of Alumni and local TA families. We raised over \$11,000! Please join us on March 24, 2018 for the 2nd Annual Golf Tournament and Boots & BBQ Tournament Bash. Contact Heather Fletcher for more information, [hfletcher@tiftarea.org](mailto:hfletcher@tiftarea.org). Information about sponsorships, team entrance, and dinner tickets will be posted to our website and Facebook page sometime in December.



# HIGHLIGHTS continued...



## FOURTH GRADE TAKES OVER THE COURTROOM

All 3 Fourth Grade classes performed a different mock trial for Judge Benson in his court room! Goldie Locks, Woody, and the Wolfe were all put on trial as the students put their knowledge of the Judicial system into play!

## ELEMENTARY MUSICAL

1st-5th graders performed the musical “Not Your Average Joe” on February 9 at the UGA Conference Center. This program was dedicated in memory of 5th grader Kendall Lamb and long time TA administrator, Mr. Ron Drummonds.



Our choir & cast have  
dedicated this performance to  
**The Glory of God**  
& the memories of fifth grade classmate  
**Kendall Lamb**  
& Upper School Principal  
**Mr. Ron Drummonds**





# HIGHLIGHTS continued...

## GROUNDHOG JOB SHADOW DAY

Mrs. Rippy hosted Groundhog Job Shadow day again this year. She required each of her 8th graders to find a professional, shadow them for the day, and record their findings. We had students shadowing some of the best and brightest in our state! Check out Brock Hammond (Right) and Sellers Veazey (left) with Governor Deal! Also, J. Marry Ford visited with Ag Commissioner Gary Black. We may have some future state leaders here at TA!



## HOMECOMING WEEK 2016

TA celebrated Homecoming September 19-23, 2016. It was a fun filled week as faculty and students all dressed up to show their spirit! The panthers then rolled over Southland in the Panther Pit to cap off an awesome week!





# HIGHLIGHTS continued...



## JOHN HUNT GRANDPARENTS' DAY

We held our annual Grandparents' Day on Friday, March 17, 2017. Our Lower School entertained the crowd with selections from their musical, "Not Your Average Joe," and Upper School Literary students showed off their musical and instrumental talents. Join us for our next Grandparents Day on Friday, March 16, 2018!



## KORAN'S STUDENTS TAKE TOP HONORS AT GEOGRAPHY DECATHLON

If you've ever been a high school student at Tiftarea Academy, you know Coach Koran stresses Geography knowledge! Two of his students took top honors at the Optimist Geography Decathlon! This competition was open to students across Tift County and consisted of a written qualifying exam testing their knowledge in 10 categories of geography. 12 students achieving the highest exams scores then competed in a quiz bowl style competition for monetary scholarship prizes. Ethan McBryer took 1st place and Wyatt Thompson came in 2nd.



## ALMOST ALUMNI DAY

We held the 2nd Annual Almost Alumni Day on Friday, May 5. Seniors were encouraged to wear a t-shirt depicting their college selection to school! As a group, they took a final lap through each building on campus as their underclassmen cheered them on. This incredible class had 100% college admission with 2 of our students devoting themselves to the service of our country and joining the military! The class of 2017 received \$1,081,000.00 in scholarships (excluding HOPE).



# HIGHLIGHTS continued...

## TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to our 2016-2017 Teachers of the Year! Mrs. Sandra Sumner & Mrs. Rhonda Sumner were voted on by their colleagues. Mrs. Sandra Sumner has 40 years of teaching experience. She has been teaching Language Arts at TA for 11 years. She and her husband, Walter, have 3 children and 8 grandchildren. Her daughter, Melanie, is TA's Speech Therapist. Mrs. Sandra has 3 grandchildren enrolled here as well as 3 TA alumni grandchildren. Mrs. Rhonda Sumner has 18 years of teaching experience and has spent all 18 here at TA! She and her husband, Tommy, have 3 grown sons who all graduated from TA, and seven grandchildren (including 2 current TA K5 students). We love their commitment to the TA family! Both teachers hold their students to high standards and guide them to reach their fullest potentials.



## INAUGURAL WOMACK SOCIETY INDUCTION & SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION

As a way to honor the devotion and service of Mrs. Diane Womack and the entire Womack family, Tiftarea Academy created the Womack Society. This group is set aside for graduating seniors who have attended Tiftarea Academy from K5-12th grade. We held a reception to honor these students, their families and Mrs. Womack in the Library before Honor's Night. Madisyn Marshall was awarded the Womack Society Scholarship.

## YOUTH OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

Nine of twelve Tifton-Tift County Youth of the Year nominees were Tiftarea Academy students! This program is designed for graduating seniors to honor and reward them for their hard work both in academics and their communities.





# PANTHERS GIVE BACK



The Varsity football team collected donations for Louisiana Flood victims. The team managed to collect multiple boxes of cleaning supplies, paper products, toiletries, and cases of water during the week-long donation drive.



When students found out one of our own was diagnosed with cancer, they immediately wanted to help. The Key Club designed these t-shirts for 4th grade teacher Kari (Drummonds) Collins. All proceeds were given to her to help offset treatment costs.



We had school wide participation in the Operation Christmas Child Project this year. : We surpassed 2015's total with the total number of boxes collected this year of 651!!!

Mrs. Flick , Mrs. Brown , Mrs. Livingston , Mrs. Graham , and Mrs. Rippey's homerooms were the building winners for highest percent participation! The students all pitched in and helped load the boxes onto trailers for their trips to Atlanta where they were then sent out worldwide.



Students in the Jones Building participated in the annual Suitcase 4 Kids drive. They collected toys for children off all ages that are in the foster system or have been affected by family violence or abuse. They donated everything they collected to Ruth's Cottage and The Patticake House, a women's shelter and child advocacy center in Tifton.



Members of the Key & Excel Clubs spent a day packing and inspecting shoe boxes collected during National Collection Week for Operation Christmas Child. The students traveled to Atlanta to volunteer onsite at a Samaritan's Purse Processing Center. The boxes were shipped worldwide to needy children to make their Christmases special and spread the word of the Gospel.



Third grader Carmen Corkern participated in a "hair drive" in Tifton and donated 9 inches of her hair to Pantene Beautiful Lengths program to create wigs for cancer patients.



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# REGION & STATE WINNERS



The Varsity softball team defeated Southland to clinch the Region Championship!



The Junior Varsity football team finished their season undefeated by taking down Deerfield 13-0 to win the Region Championship!



Jon Luke Owens is the 130 lb weight class State Wrestling Champion!



Kirsten Murphy is a TRIPLE State Swimming Champion. Kirsten won the GISA State Swim Meet in the 200-Yard Individual Medley, the 100-Yard Butterfly, and the 500-Yard Freestyle. Kirsten and teammate Carrie Engram (8th grader) finished 6th out of 20 teams in the State Meet.



Marlee Marlowe (pictured left) was crowned state champion in the GISA State Class AAA track meet in the 100-meter hurdles. She finished more than half a second ahead of her nearest competitor! Marlee also won the Region title.

Kassidy Goodman won the Region 3-AAA shot put competition. (pictured right)



The Varsity Girl's basketball team are the Region 3-AAA champs after beating Southland in the semi-final and Brookwood in the final.

## COLLEGE SIGNINGS



Ahmad Mosley signed a letter of intent to continue his football career at the University of West Georgia.



Kymele Hart signed with Fort Valley State University to continue his football career on National Signing Day.



Millicent (Millie) Albritton signed an equestrian scholarship with Wesleyan College in Macon.



Jordyn Sumner signed a softball scholarship with Andrew College.



# ANNUAL FUND DONORS

Parents, Trustees, Grandparents & Friends of TA

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\* denotes Board of Trustee

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# SUPPORT US.



## OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT TA

### GEORGIA **GOAL** SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, INC.

Under a Georgia law established in 2008, taxpayers are able to re-direct a portion of their state income tax payment to provide need-based tuition assistance to Tiftarea Academy students. TA has partnered with the **GOAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM** to help facilitate the provisions of the law. The program allows TA to provide need-based financial assistance to eligible students. We are deeply grateful to the 31 individuals (including 5 business owners and 1 corporation) who applied for a 2016 Education Tax Credit on behalf of Tiftarea Academy.

These important tax credit dollars provided opportunities for 53 students to attend Tiftarea Academy as GOAL recipients this year. Thank you for taking the education tax credit and changing students' lives!

For more information regarding the Georgia GOAL tax credit programs, please visit [www.goalscholarship.org](http://www.goalscholarship.org) or contact Heather Fletcher in the development office at 229-382-0436.



### Through **PUBLIX PARTNERS**

qualifying purchases made at participating Publix Super Markets using your Publix Partners card, will help earn money for your school. Contact Heather Fletcher in the development office if you would like a Partners card mailed to you (229) 382-0436. If you're local, drop by the front office and pick up a card!



Look for the **BOX TOPS** for Education logo on hundreds of products in almost every aisle of the grocery store. All you need to do is clip the logos and send them to our school. Each one is worth 10 cent for Tiftarea! We have 2 collection turn in times during October and April of each year. For a list of participating products, go to [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com). Get everyone involved; ask your friends, neighbors, and relatives to collect for you! You can mail your BoxTops to the school, PO Box 10, Chula, GA 31733 ATTN: Amy Henderson.

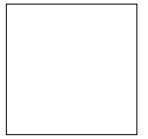


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Fax: (229) 382-7742  
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*Save the Date*

**MARCH 24, 2018**

Golf Tournament / Boots & BBQ Dinner