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Richmond Academy Alumni & Friends Newsletter

OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE RA ALUMNI & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

Counting Our Blessings

REBECCA SAVOY ('22)

As we inch closer to the most wonderful time of the year, we first pause to celebrate one of my other favorite holidays: Thanksgiving! While I try to keep an attitude of gratitude year round, I'm especially intentional this season. Recently, as I was reflecting on what I'm thankful for, I realized many of the items on my list connect back to Richmond in some way. In this newsletter, I think you'll find plenty to be grateful for, too! Our alumni spotlight features Allen Reynolds, whose behind-the-scenes dedication makes so many events possible. You'll also catch a glimpse of our students' recent adventures, from serving at Camp Lawroweld in Maine to honoring the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Washington, D.C. And don't miss the story of how the Richmond Academy community continues to stay connected, even miles away from home.

Friend, I'm grateful for you, too, and your role in the Richmond Academy family. Happy reading!



Is there anyone you know who should be part of the RA Alumni & Friends Association? Send them this link: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/PNo9W0x/alumniandfriends

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Alumni Spotlight

ALLEN REYNOLDS ('76)

If you live in the Richmond area, chances are you know (or at least recognize) Allen Reynolds. Though much of his work is behind-the-scenes helping out with technology at church and school events, he's become a pivotal part of our community. This year, his niece Sydney has graciously stepped in as our interim Art and Pre-K to 4th grade PE teacher! Get ready to learn more about the impact Allen has had on Richmond Academy since the 60s.

Q: When and how long did you attend Richmond Academy?
A: I attended Richmond Academy from first grade in 1966 through tenth grade in 1976. Since it was a junior academy at that point, I transferred to Blue Mountain Academy.

Q: Were there any teachers that particularly shaped your academic journey or later life?
A: Mr. Bredenkamp had a lasting influence on me. He was kind and patient, even when I tested his limits with my antics, like hiding a radio in the drop ceiling, connected to a wireless microphone. Since he was deaf in one ear, he could never quite tell where the sound of my voice was coming from. He disciplined me appropriately, as he should have, yet he did so with kindness and grace. His example taught me the power of patience and compassion.

Q: How did the smaller class sizes at RA impact your experience?
A: The smaller class sizes at RJA allowed for a lower student-to-teacher ratio, which gave me more opportunities for personalized attention and focused learning. It made a real difference in my academic growth.

Q: Do you feel like your time at RA prepared you for the rest of your academic and professional life?
A: Absolutely. The academics were excellent, but the greatest benefit was that Christ was at the center of everything. That spiritual foundation has guided me throughout my life and career.

Q: What career path did you choose, and what unexpected twists and turns came about?
A: I was always interested in electronics and gained some hands-on experience with it at Blue Mountain Academy. That led me to pursue a path in Biomedical Electronics. Eventually, I returned

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"THE ACADEMICS WERE EXCELLENT, BUT THE GREATEST BENEFIT WAS THAT CHRIST WAS AT THE CENTER OF EVERYTHING."



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home to work in the family business, and later I started my own computer consulting company. One of my clients later hired me full-time as their IT Manager, where I've been ever since.

Q: How are you still connected with the RA community?
A: I'm an active member of the Patterson Avenue SDA Church, one of RA's constituent churches. I've also served on RA's School Board, and my wife and I continue to support the school both through participation in events and financial contributions.

Q: What is one piece of advice you would share with current Richmond Academy students?
A: Pray daily and throughout each day for God's continual guidance, keeping Christ at the center of every decision you make, and He will direct your path.



Allen's tenth grade yearbook photo



The RJA Upper Grades in 1974 (Allen's 8th grade year). Recognize anyone?

"PRAY DAILY AND THROUGHOUT EACH DAY FOR GOD'S CONTINUAL GUIDANCE."

Photo Timeline

See highlights of what Richmond Academy has been up to this quarter!



Soccer Season

RA's soccer team scored big this season! We're so proud of them.



Outdoor Ed

The 7th and 8th graders adventured to Camp Bethel for some hands-on, outdoor learning.





Pastor's Breakfast

Pastors from our constituent churches hosted a special breakfast for our students, taking time to pray for our RA community.





First Day of School

Staff and students kicked off the first day of school with our traditional handshake and popsicle reception.





Field Day

The SA organized another fun Field Day with everything from sack races to Sharks and Minnows!

Maine Maranatha Mission

MARANATHA VOLUNTEERS INTERNATIONAL

"There are many reasons to visit Maine in the fall, but the 84 volunteers who visited Camp Lawroweld, a Seventh-day Adventist camp and retreat center, in October had a special purpose of their own–service. 'Maranatha has single-handedly changed the face of this camp and really breathed new life into it and gotten people excited about it,' said Trevor Schlisner, Youth & Young Adult Director for the Northern New England Adventist Conference.

For several days of the Maranatha project, adult volunteers were joined by 42 students from Richmond Academy. Each year, the school takes a trip called 'Horizon.' Usually to college campuses the trip aims to help students make decisions about their future. But this year, the staff decided to give the teens a taste of missions. 'We're so transactional in our world where we do something and we get a better grade, or we do something and we get paid. But I think the most transformative, impactful things we do are often unpaid,' said Richmond bible teacher Desmond Suarez II. 'And having the students be here working hard for something that matters and that's not monetary is really powerful.'

Maranatha volunteers have been providing vital upgrades at Camp Lawroweld since 2020. Past projects have resulted in renovated cabins and bathhouses, and have marked a positive turning point for the camp and its facilities."

Taken from Maranatha News site. Click here to read the full article!



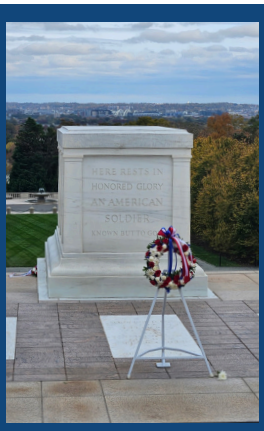
From snakes to the northern lights, the RA kids saw it all and served whole-heartedly.

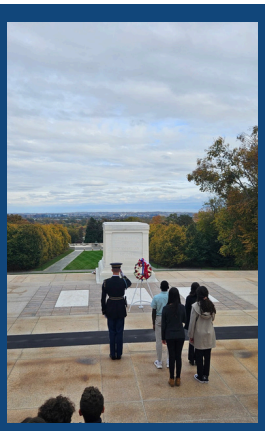
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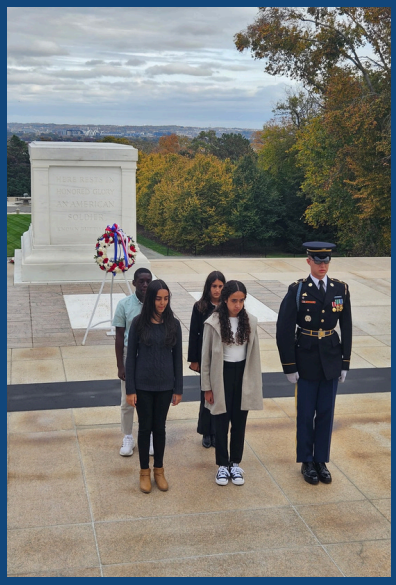












THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

Four representatives from the 7th and 8th grade class had the honor of laying a wreath the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in the Arlington National Cemetery on October 29.

THE CUTEST PUMPKINS IN THE PATCH

Grades Pre-K to 3 enjoyed a fun fall field trip to Lloyd Family Farms! They got to explore the land, meet friendly animals, take a fun hayride, and learn all about autumn harvests.













Upcoming Events:

November 5: Cross Country Meet in Fredericksburg

December 13: Christmas Concert

January 24: Choir and Bells at Richmond Brazilian Community Church

Dates are subject to change. Check out our live calendar at https://www.rasda.org/calendar/



RA Alumni Chapter Expansion

MEET OUR SAU CHAPTER

What do you do when you're 523 miles from home and missing loved ones? You build a little piece of home right where you are.

At Southern Adventist University, two Richmond Academy graduates are working on doing just that. Led by two seniors, a small but tight-knit group of fellow alumni has formed the first "unofficial official" Richmond Academy alumni chapter outside of home base. What began as a simple idea to share a meal together has turned into a monthly tradition, always fueled by (affordable) food and lots of laughter. As the group grows and changes from year to year, they hope to keep the spirit of connection alive, no matter how many miles separate them from where it all began.



L-R: Caleb Hoffman ('22), Benjamin Hernandez ('25), Adriana Campos (Attended), Josh Bofetiado ('21), Meghan Young ('25), Rebecca Savoy ('22), Gabrielle Savoy ('25)

We Want to Hear from You!

Have any alumni-related questions, comments, or updates? Contact us at alumni@rasda.org!