



SOUTH ATLANTIC CONFERENCE of
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
OFFICE of EDUCATION



Continually growing
the Kingdom with a
focus on Excellence

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Picking Up the Pace



UPCOMING EVENTS

December 20

End of Second Quarter
Noon Dismissal (47 days)

Dec. 21—Jan. 1

Christmas Vacation

January 2

Teacher's Return

January 3

Classes Resume

January 8—12

Report Cards Issued to
Parents

January 15

MLK, Jr. Holiday

January 21 & 22

Encounter Training
Orangeburg, SC

January 28—30

Principal's Council

January 31

Summative Observations
Completed

February 1

Teacher Intent Forms Due
to SACOE

Staff Recommendation
forms due to SACOE

February 5—9

Third Quarter Interim
Reports Sent Home

February 19

School Improvement
Planning Day—No School

February 25

K-12 Board of Education

February 26—March 2

SAC Disaster Awareness
Week

Holiday Greetings from the Vice President for Education

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

The holiday season is the time of year we all take time to pause, reflect, and count the numerous blessings in our lives. God has been better to me than I can express! We all have much to be thankful for in our lives. But here are a few things on my list:

1. I am blessed to have a loving and supportive spouse and two amazing adult children...and a sweet grandson! And I continue to be blessed with good health, much hope and great happiness.
2. Each day that I walk into my office, I am reminded how blessed I am to work in South Atlantic Conference. I am grateful for the friendship, support, and dedication of our phenomenal SACOE team member: Michael, Currine, and Vicki.
3. I am surrounded throughout the Conference by thoughtful and compassionate individuals...like you. People who are faith-filled and committed to making a difference in every child's life that walks through our doors. And that is a blessing not just for me but for every parent and every child.

As you begin your well-deserved holidays, take time to truly celebrate the season. Take time to spend with your loved ones. Take time to relax and rejuvenate. And finally, take time to reflect not only on Baby Jesus, but on Jesus our Lord and soon-coming King!

May your holidays be filled with peace, joy and love. And may God bless you in the coming new year.



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Angels Watching Over Thee



In 1984 Amy Grant made popular the song, *Angels Watching Over Me*. Her song was based on Psalms 91:11, “And He shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.” How true this is for each one of us, no matter the circumstances we find ourselves in.

This past November, our associate superintendent, Dr. Michael Cookenmaster, found himself in a situation in which he was unexpectedly broadsided while on his way to Southern Union departmental meetings in Tampa. The Lord sent Michael’s angel to maneuver the car in such a way that while totaled, He allowed Michael to walk away from this awful

accident with just some internal bruising. We praise God for sending His angels to keep watch over each one of you as you travel to and fro, while working with your students, and ministering in the work of education.



“Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared.” Exodus 23:20



CAYA Winners!

We celebrate with our faculty and staff in Lithonia. Under the leadership of principal, Castwell Fider, LAA students recently participated in the Collegedale Adventist Youth Association tournaments. The LAA girl’s took third place, and the boy’s took second place.



The Emboldened Leader Within by Dr. Sylvan Lashley

Will I look to the holy hills where the cathedrals of power are located for help? Not at all! My help comes from the Lord”. Ps 121:1

Each of us is created with a chip of the Divine spark, namely, “the emboldened leader within”. Deep down, embedded in our DNA is the proclivity to be in charge yet to be held accountable, and fight to the end in every righteous cause, to “look up” for authority. Yet, this spark has been marred by the evil effects of sin, so that we become fearful and gaze only to the hills. We are careful to be docile, meek and mild, never to offend, to be politically correct, to stay in our proverbial lanes, to pre-stage and arrange all matters carefully, and to be orderly and decent in the face in all things. Yet I think that this entire style can be taken yet too far and can snuff out the leader within, the emboldened divine spark that God wants to call out evil in these end times and to look beyond principalities and powers.

We are called to be fearless in these fearsome times—
“Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me” (Psalm 23). We are





GAAA Celebrates Elder Tottress



GAAA, under the leadership of Dr. Sylvan Lashley, held a surprise birthday celebration for Elder Richard E. Tottress. Elder Tottress, who still drives his own car and occasionally provides school worship for the students, came to the academy thinking he was doing all school worship. He was pleasantly surprised to find the faculty, staff, and students waiting to celebrate God's mercy and grace in his life for the past 100 years.



Who's On TV and Caroling at the Mall? BJA-Sumter

Our very own students from Berea Junior Academy in Sumter, SC, under the leadership of principal, Regrick Howard, were recently featured on the local news. The students also competed in the Festive Five competition held at Sumter Mall. While the students, outnumbered by larger public schools, did not win any prize, the workers in nearby stores commented that they thought the students out shown their larger counterparts. Congratulations! What a great way to help your community learn about your presence.



DAJA Community Outreach

Under the leadership of principal, Yvette Cooper, the students at Decatur Adventist Junior Academy participated in the Toys for Tots campaign. One man in the community was so touched by the students that he continued to share his appreciation and blessed the children. You never know how a small act of kindness will affect another person.





GFAA Students Preach, Share Music, Poetry, & Scriptures

On Sabbath December 9, Greater Fayetteville, under direction of interim Charmaine Francis, visited the Fayetteville Spanish Church. Here two students shared the word of God, and the student body provided special music, shared poetry, and recited scripture. The children's ministry lifted the congregation to the throne of God, and they clearly displayed that God and His word are the center of their education.



Rejoicing in Heaven

One of Lisa Marshall-Smiths's sixth grade students in Albany, surrendered his life to Jesus through baptism, and we rejoice with the Father and all the angels of heaven.

Please pray for Isaiah as he begins his new walk with Jesus.

Students Lead Out in Interactive Adult Sabbath School at Gethsemane in Raleigh

On Sabbath November 11, the students of Gethsemane Christian SDA Jr. Academy, under the leadership of principal, Ijeoma Nwanunu, led the adult Sabbath School class. Students led song service, scripture, prayer, the mission story, and special music. Their guest speaker, Dr. Cookenmaster, presented the lesson on Righteousness by Faith and the urgent need for Adventist education today. The congregation was so blessed, they asked if they could do a similar type program once a quarter.



We Are Soldiers in the Army

The students in Augusta, under the leadership of principal, Janice Stevenson, presented a unique twist on the Biblical Narrative of the Nativity and its importance to the present truth. As prophecy is being fulfilled, the students at Ebenezer Christian Academy showed that they are standing, like Joshua, on the Lord's side.





A PLC ARTICLE

MARKETING YOUR SCHOOL TO MILLENNIALS

Shane Anderson (2009), in *How to Kill Adventist Education*, and Thomas, Perez, Thoemer, Barlis, Person, and Beck (2015) in *The Success Partner's Handbook*, assert that everyone who works at a school is responsible for marketing the school, and marketing begins on day one of the school year and continues until day one of the next school year. It is ongoing and cyclical in nature. The school with an established and maintained physical, social, and spiritual environment is one that ensures the parent has a significant role in the learning of their children.

Physical Environment—The physical environment is more than the building and playground:

1. What is our contact with current and prospective parents like? Do we have an open door policy? Are we welcoming? Do we need to do an extreme makeover?
2. Do we need to repaint, put up better looking bulletin boards, buff the linoleum, or replace the carpet?
3. Do we have signage that welcomes parents and gives directions for parking and how to access the office or key personnel?
4. Are administration and classroom teachers making regular home visits to current and prospective parents?
5. Do we invite parents in by hosting a morning open house where we provide tours of the school held by Home and School Association and conducted by the students? Do we offer hot chocolate and pastries during these events?
6. Do we host celebrations in which the community is invited to the school to witness our diversities and traditions?
7. Do we have a large sign in our lobby that welcomes parents with a strong message? La Sierra University in Southern California heavily pushes its motto, "From Diversity to Community," everywhere.
8. Have we considered developing a mandatory volunteer program. Most parents want to volunteer, but they also want to be asked and encouraged.
9. Have we asked current parents to write a short testimonial story that is published on the school's social media account and website?
10. Can we place a large white board outside where students are dropped off, thanking a different parent each day by name?

THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS



AND THERE WERE IN THE SAME COUNTRY SHEPHERDS ABIDING IN THE FIELD, KEEPING WATCH OVER THEIR FLOCK BY NIGHT.

AND, LO, THE ANGEL OF THE LORD CAME UPON THEM, AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD SHONE ROUND ABOUT THEM AND THEY WERE SORE AFRAID.

AND THE ANGEL SAID UNTO THEM, FEAR NOT: FOR, BEHOLD, I BRING YOU GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY, WHICH SHALL BE TO ALL PEOPLE.

FOR UNTO YOU IS BORN THIS DAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID A SAVIOUR, WHICH IS CHRIST THE LORD.

AND THIS SHALL BE A SIGN UNTO YOU; YE SHALL FIND THE BABE WRAPPED IN SWADDLING CLOTHES, LYING IN A MANGER.

AND SUDDENLY THERE WAS WITH THE ANGEL A MULTITUDE OF THE HEAVENLY HOST PRAISING GOD, AND SAYING,

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST, AND ON EARTH PEACE, GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN.

LUKE 2:8-14

11. Is there a dedicated bulletin board in our main hallway that informs current and prospective students of important information about the school such as student data, Conference policies, and current school news?

Virtual Environment—In this new post-modern era millennial parents shop online. If they find something they're interested in they will make a phone call. If that goes well, they will make a visit to the school. When spreading the word about your school there are several areas to consider for this new generation of parents including:

1. Is our school's website and social media account inviting and up-to-date?
2. Are parents using the website and social media? Why or why not?
3. Is our parent portal through RenWeb available to all parents in grades 1-12 and are grades up-to-date and accurate?
4. Are all our faculty and staff using the school's social media and website? Do they know what content is on it? Do they reference it? Are they allowed to make contributions and suggestions to improve the content?

Spiritual Environment—Our first and foremost goal is to maintain a strong spiritual environment in which children grow and develop in their love and relationship with God. It is the primary reason parents choose a Christian environment over a secular one. There are key components each staff member should focus on:

1. Am I part of the problem or part of the solution?
2. Do I have anything that I am offering the school and community or am I here only for a paycheck?
3. Do I have a compelling vision for the future of my school?
4. Are the right people in place to accomplish what the school needs to thrive?
5. Is our school a school of individual and corporate worship and prayer?
6. Is staff worship happening daily? Do I willingly or grudgingly participate?
7. Are the constituency and stakeholders praying for the school daily?
8. Do we have a pastor who supports and promotes Adventist education and the school team?
9. Is the right school leadership in place?



Academic Environment—If our schools can master the fundamentals of the philosophy of Adventist education we will win the championship and our student populations will reflect our efforts coupled with the power of the Holy Spirit. A quality product (students) will draw in the Adventist community and other community parents. A quality product requires the following:

1. Is student salvation the primary focus of our school?
2. Is our school physically, emotionally, and spiritually safe?
3. Are our academics high quality providing rigor and relevance?
4. Do we have the best staff, or is our staff comprised of people who we could get to come to our community?
5. Does all the staff have a strong work ethic?
6. Do all staff members and the pastor have a passion for the uniqueness of Adventist education and its mission?

Make your school user-friendly to the parents. Your enrollment will increase, and your parents and the Conference Office will thank you.