

October
2024



HIGHLIGHTS:

- Adventist Education
- WJA News
- Cindy Berger Commissioning
- Pathfinders
- A Poem by Valerie Messersmith
- Church Campout
- Practicing My Faith as a Neurosurgeon

Adventist Education

The education of a child is a sacred endeavor. It is not something to be taken lightly and the educational experience a child has is pivotal in serving as one of the critical foundational pieces that the rest of adulthood is built upon. Adventist Education is part of what has been termed, “The Three-Legged Stool.” The legs of this stool are represented by the home, the church, and the school working together on behalf of children to provide a holistic upbringing and training. "It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come." (Education p. 13)

At no time in earth’s history has the need and relevance of Adventist Education been greater. Students spend most of their waking hours in the school environment. As such, it is critical that the school environment a child finds themselves in is consistent when representing the values of the home and the church in order to provide the training and growth opportunities needed to establish characters that are fortified to resist the temptations of the world. Additionally, as pre-service missionaries, students are also prepared academically by professionally trained teachers. These teachers provide learning opportunities that reflect a combination that no other environment can easily replicate. That is, the spiritual inculcation of truth reflected throughout the curriculum combined with the excellence of academics and professional instruction. This combination is powerful because it yokes up spiritual and academic excellence in a way that is beyond estimate.

Lastly, we teach distinctly, Seventh-day Adventist Education. There are many varieties of education. There are even other Christian schools. But there is only one Seventh-day Adventist education that teaches the eschatological truths and beliefs of our church as reflected in scripture. It is critical for our children to know and own these values at a time in our world where truth is being attacked and people are attempting to disfigure and redefine it.

Our schools aren’t perfect, just like our churches and homes aren’t perfect. However, what we are striving for and what we are seeking in Adventist Education is to introduce young people to Jesus in a deep and meaningful way, provide a level of excellence in academics that prepares them for any vocation, and train them in what it means to be a missionary to a dying world in being able to know and teach the message of our church. We solicit your support. Our children need our schools and our schools need children. Adventist Education is one of the most critical ministries that our church has. I’m grateful that our Conference invests its treasure and time to carry the work forward. We all have a work to do. Let us band together to ensure that our schools, these lighthouses shining into the darkness, are strong and viable until Jesus comes.

Jeremy Hall, M.A., LLP
VP for Education
Michigan Conference



Wilson SDA Junior Academy

September has been a whirlwind as our schedule has cemented and our students have adjusted to school routine. And, amazingly, Camp Sagola has been the focus of many events this month.

First, we're proud of the work our students accomplished for our Bible Lab at Camp Sagola in preparation for UP Camp Meeting -windows washed, a fence gate set, and the beach area cleaned. I know I was blessed from participating and watching our young people serve with capable hands and a willing spirit.

Second, our own Cindy Berger was commissioned as a conference teacher at our UP Camp Meeting.

And just the last full week of September, our 5th and 6th graders trekked up to Camp Sagola for the annual Outdoor School with Dr. Atkins, Mr. Science Guy from Camp Au Sable, and Elder Morgan. Students earned the Rocks and Minerals and the Tree Forestry Pathfinder honors. Sleeping in the cabins, taking water samples, investigating all over the camp to collect leaves and rock samples, eating delicious food, making new friends, enjoying the beautiful area and the clear night skies all led to a fun experience for both students and sponsors. Pastor Jim was our male chaperone and Mrs. Hakes for our girls.

Our other big September news is successful completion of MAP Growth Testing. What we are extremely proud of is that from grades 6 through 10, our students avoided the "summer brain syndrome" which is often seen in scores. Instead, we are seeing continued growth patterns rather than a dip from a summer break. Go WJA!



We appreciate your continued prayers and support. Early in October, our 7th and 8th graders will head down to Camp Au Sable for the annual LIFT experience - Life Improvement For Teens. I am certain many of you readers have fond memories of your experience at this special event! Please keep us in your prayers for health, safety, and a rich, spiritual encounter.

--Blessings,

Ginnie Hakes
Principal, Wilson Junior Academy

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Commissioning of Cindy Berger at Camp Sagola





The highlight of the 2023-2024 Pathfinder year was attending "Believe the Promise" International Camporee in Gillette, WY. On the way to Wyoming, our club visited Mount Rushmore National Park. During the Camporee, our Pathfinders enjoyed a variety of unique honors such as Equestrian Vaulting, American Sign Language, and the Sanctuary. They also got to visit local museums, the pool, and an athletic center. Each evening, we worshipped with 60,000 other Pathfinders that were attending from all over the world and witnessed a five-part play on the life of

Moses. Despite a storm, heat, cold, and crowded conditions, we made lasting memories and were challenged to "Believe the Promise" of what God can do in each of our lives.

Our fall campout was at the Onjukka's house. The Pathfinders enjoyed sleeping in hammocks out in the woods and practicing their camping skills. Everyone also got to make a meal on a fire they had built themselves. Notable creations include: vegetable ramen soup, roasted potatoes and onions, bread on a stick, and a Dutch oven deep dish pizza.

Pilate asked. The people answered.
Give us Barabbas! Crucify Him!

Two sons contrasted;
One of the devil, the other of God.

The thief was released;
The Healer scourged.

The murderer liberated;
The Creator crucified.

The Life giver became the life taker,
Lifted up on the cross.

"For He made Him who knew on sin to be sin for us;
That we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

2 Corinthians 5:21, Mark 15:6-15, John 8:44, Colossians 1:16,
Hebrews 1:1-2.

Valerie Messersmith



Fundraising

Our beloved Kelty tents have served us well for many years. Unfortunately, three are torn and vital poles have been broken from storm damage at Camporee combined with weakness from normal wear and tear. If you would like to help us with the repair/replacement, you may donate via the Wilson Church and mark your tithe envelope or check for "Pathfinders."

Wilson Church Campout

September 13-15, 2024

There is something about pulling into the campground after a long tiring week and as you round the corner you begin seeing familiar faces all around the campground. The smoke from the surrounding campsites hangs in the air, the lake is calm, and the campground peaceful. The stresses of life seem to melt away and you can't wait to get your campfire built and sit around it.

Campers began to gather for a vesper with Carrie DeGrave as the sun began to set. Worshipping together on a campsite near the lakeshore at sundown was a wonderful way to welcome in the Sabbath and put the week's cares behind.

Sabbath school was an unforgettable experience. Tom Onjukka broke the Sabbath School class into 4 subgroups with a mixture of all ages. Each group selected an event from Mark's account of Jesus' final hours before his crucifixion. After a set amount of time, the groups came back together and either acted out their scene or shared the key points of their discussion. The Holy Spirit's presence was felt, and everyone received such a blessing, young and old alike.

While Sabbath School was a highlight of the weekend, the church service was not to be outdone. The sermon about Jesus and His power as creator of the universe was given by Tom Onjukka. As the church family gathered around in the shade of those majestic trees, listening to the waves lapping at the shore while feasting on the truths about our Lord, we were all encouraged to trust Him in all things.

A delicious haystack potluck satisfied appetites after being out in the fresh air. Many stayed and visited at the pavilion for the afternoon, while some walked, and others went down by the lake. Late on in the afternoon, Pauline Brown facilitated a class on Yooper Light Rocks, how to find them, what to look for, and a treasure hunt to find the biggest one right at Wells Park. While they are usually only found in Lake Superior, this giant rock must have been transported into Wells Park on Lake Michigan.

Supper was eaten together around a fire roasting hot dogs, followed by vespers with Kam Ferguson from Strong Tower Radio giving us an update on the coverage in the U.P. A glow stick bicycle parade for the younger campers followed this.

What a wonderful time to relax, be spiritually fed, and spend time together as a church family. If you were unable to attend the campout this year you will not want to miss the blessing in the future. Make this a priority for your calendar next year.

Danielle Berger

Practicing My Faith as a Neurosurgeon

As a young attending neurosurgeon, I thought I was pretty hot stuff. By the age of 33, I had graduated from Yale and the University of Michigan, and I had become chief of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins. I looked back at all my accomplishments and took full credit for where I had ended up. But along came this little boy from Georgia.

At age 2, he was memorizing Bible verses, but by age 4 he started to lose all his functions. Soon after he started experiencing symptoms, he was diagnosed with a malignant brain stem tumor. **Every doctor that this little boy's parents talked to said the same thing: "It's inoperable. Take him home, keep him comfortable, and let him die."**

When they ended up at Johns Hopkins, my confidence faded fast as I looked at his CAT scan. This little boy lay in the ward barely moving, barely breathing, foaming at the mouth, eyes looking in different directions. His scan showed a big, ugly brainstem tumor. I asked myself, "What am I supposed to do here?"

The little boy's parents shook my confidence even further when they told me, "Doctor, we were led here by God so we would find a Christian neurosurgeon, and the Lord is going to heal our son through him."

"I'm sorry you made that trip, but there's nothing I or anyone else on earth can do."

"But doctor, THE LORD..."

I knew whatever was going to happen to that little boy, I would have to let God be the surgeon, and I would be the hands.

If you would like to hear the rest of the story, you can click here to watch the video (the segment starts at 21:50): (<https://www.frc.org/wwlivewithtonyperkins/independence-day>).

Faith is a cornerstone of our nation's values. It's vital to the well-being of every society. God wants to use every one of us, and all we have to do is be willing to get out of the way and allow him to take control of our lives. I believe it's so critical at this juncture in our nation's history when things look very dark.

But as they say, it's always darkest before the dawn. I think that darkness has reached us now, but you have the opportunity to be the light in the darkness for others. Each one of us has a sphere of influence that we can use in a very powerful way. I encourage you to find a way to be a light in the darkness today.

Gratefully,

Dr. Ben Carson

Miscellaneous Announcements & Classified Ads

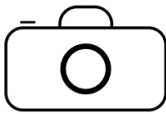


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Gourley Township Historical Society meets the first Thursday of the month, October through April. Meetings are held at the township hall and at member residences. Our next meeting will be Thursday, November 7TH. Come have a good time talking about old times in Gourley! Contact Ivy at (906) 639-2979 or ivynetzal@gmail.com for info.



"Pics from the (906)"

Tanner Pearson

Photographer/Videographer

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Don't forget about our ongoing Rada fundraiser. They have a great selection of knives and kitchen utensils that are a great gift or just a great new addition to your own supply!

If you shop online please use the link above, or you may search for **Wilson SDA Jr. Academy** at <https://radafundraising.com/pages/select-your-fundraising-group>. If you prefer a catalog, please contact Brandee Groleau! She is also willing to help you with your orders.

The funds raised will go directly towards finishing our school gym project so that our school can function at its greatest potential for our students and teachers. Please help us meet this goal!

RADA Cutlery Fundraiser for the WJA School Expansion

<https://radafundraising.com/?rfsn=1820058.87e8e7>
or call Brandee Groleau (906) 399-9247 (call or text)

A Note from the Librarian

Do you fully understand the End of Time Events and Timeline? If not, you should take a look at this book in our Church Library.

The End of Time; How to Prepare. It is the most complete, classified collection of Spirit of Prophecy statements on final events ever compiled, with 2000 quotations from well-known books and not so well known manuscripts. As a 4th generation SDA, 16 years of Adventist education, a few Bible studies, etc., this book clarified some events that I was unsure of.

