



**TARSUS
AMERICAN
COLLEGE**

MONTHLY PARENT NEWSLETTER

2016 - 2017

OCTOBER



Tarsus American College At TEKUF



TAC student representatives who attended 3rd National Youth Forum on October 14-17 at TED Kayseri College, worked as correspondents and delegates in this forum.

At the conference in Kayseri which adopted the European Youth Parliament Format, grade 11 students Güneş Sezer, İnci Ovat, Rifat Tuğrul, Umut Barış Özen, Ilgaz Baykal and Çetin Çelikiylmaz, Grade 10 students Talya Boyar and Ali Özaltın were in attendance. On the first day teambuilding activities were conducted between committees, while the second day and third day were used for working on the draft. On the fourth day, the delegates presented their drafts to the General Board. Güneş Sezer and İnci Ovat who worked as “correspondents” wrote daily articles for the newspaper “Zımbırtı” on the four days of the event.

Students who sadly said their goodbyes at the end of the trip, do treasure the new friendships made and beautiful memories collected during the trip to Kayseri.

Güneş SEZER
11 IB TM

Certificates Presented To The Student Participants In TEKUF



TAC's grade 10 students Talya Boyar and Ali Özaltın, grade 11 students Güneş Sezer, İnci Ovat, Rifat Tuğrul, Umut Barış Özen, Ilgaz Baykal and Çetin Çelikyılmaz who participated in the 3rd National Youth Forum between October 14-17 at TED Kayseri College successfully represented their school at the event. The students, as well as their supervising teacher Gülden Balaban, were presented certificates of recognition by Headmaster Andrew Leathwood and Assistant Principal Orhan Baycık.

Visit to the Senior Citizens Home in Adana

Grade 10 and 11

On October 15, 2016 TAC students (Bertil Örtlek, Egemen Ünlüsoy, Deniz Hakgüden, Melis Andrea Demirel and Zeynep Erdoğan) visited the Senior Citizens Home in Adana with their science teachers Handan Duran Şahin and Duygu Şimşek. This was a quite a different visit than the Bookmobile ad support to the neighboring school projects which I was previously a part of. When we were there, we were very warmly welcomed by the senior residents. When we were serving them the cookies and drinks we had brought along for them, we were also a part of their conversations. We also visited those residents who were not able to leave their rooms. My coming across “an auntie” from Kadirli, Osmaniye – my hometown – was very special too, as well as some of my friends. After the visit, we had a debrief and shared some valuable feedback.



It proved to be memorable for us to spend some time with the seniors and to listen to their memories – even for what seemed to be a short amount of time. It was a great experience for all. Thank you to all who has contributed

Bertil Örtlek from 10B

Turkish Republic Is Ours!

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The Republic Day assembly prepared by Turkish Language and Literature Department was full of moments of national pride and cheer of celebration. The program of events, which reflected the richness brought by the republic regime to Turkey, started with a moment of silence and the National Anthem. The touching remarks by the school principal, Ms. Günseli Yüksel were followed by activities which focus on Atatürk's "The Speech" and his ideals for the country which hold true even today. Students who brought together the pieces of the Turkish map to make a whole, represented seven geographical regions of Turkey, with the accompaniment of poetry, traditional clothes and music from each region. After this visual feast, TAC ECHO students complemented the celebration with music. Turkish Drama Club students staged the short play "R-evolution". After successful performances giving life to Atatürk's "Address to the Turkish Youth" and a video footage, the activity closed with the song "Memleketim". The assembly also included presentation of an award, for the essay writing contest with the theme "democracy" and Meliha Manav, the writer of the winning entry received her award from Önder Şit, Turkish Literature Department Chair.

This meaningful event helped students to fully grasp the importance of democracy and the republic regime for Turkey. We would like to thank our music teacher Aslı Son for working with the performers towards successful musical performances and Tülay Okan for the impressive stage decors.



“The Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award”

Tarsus American College students in the bronze category of the “The Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award” program completed the “Adventure and Exploration” component of the “Award Program” with a camping adventure.

Students who carried their food, drinks and tents for the camp in their personal backpacks took their steps with full awareness of this fact, and their musings along the road showed that their biggest award was this mindfulness.

Here are some examples of these lessons learned:

“Before you set out on your journey, calculate your time and the food you will consume wisely and don’t take more than you can consume, for it will come back as extra weight, even when it’s your favorite canned corn”.

“When you have a map and a compass in your hands, your most valued treasure is the ability to use your compass”.

“Group awareness and division of labor strengthens unity”

“Keeping up a tempo speeds up the group’s walk”

“A pair of socks which were worn incorrectly in the preparation stage can result in cuts and blisters. Small details can cause big problems.”

This program, as stated in TAC’s mission statement aims to increase the individual and social values of young people and to instill positive qualities in them.



The Champion Of The 9th Ertan Dumanlı Basketball Tournament Is Tarsus American College!



Tarsus American College hosted promising young players at its traditional fall sports event, Ertan Dumanlı Basketball Tournament, organized by the TAC Sports Club of Tarsus American College.

At the end of the 9th tournament where 6 teams competed for the championship trophy, it was the host, Tarsus American College, who took it home.

TAC made its mark at the basketball event which is organized as a tribute to Dr. Ertan Dumanlı, late TAC'58 graduate and Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors at Health and Education Foundation. While TAC's A team was the champion, the B team received the fourth place.

TAC also received the special recognition awards of "Best Forward Player", "Best Pivot" and "Most Valuable Player".

COMPETITION BETWEEN SIX TEAMS

The teams which competed in the tournament represented TAC (A and B teams), hosting Kahramanmaraş Kipaş Schools, Adana Erkan College, Konya Selçuklu Municipality Sports Club and Bahçeşehir College in Kayseri. Adana Erkan College was the runner up while Konya Selçuklu Municipality's Sports Club placed third.

Final Rankings:

The athletes who were selected to receive special recognition based on their performance were:

Best Guard: Ata Günbatımı (Konya Selçuklu Municipality Sports Club)

Best Forward: Muhammed İsmail Yaşar (TAC A)

Best Pivot: Ali Yurtseven (TAC A)

MVP: Ali Yurtseven (TAC A)

Champion: TAC – A Team



Academic Success And The Importance Of Grade 9

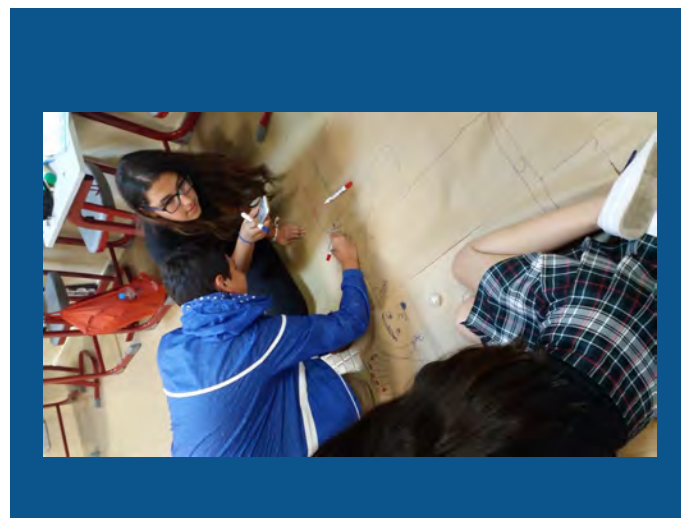
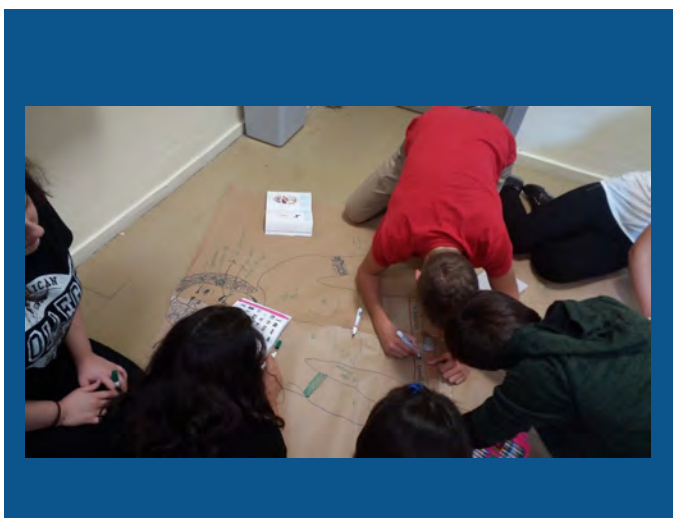
Grade 9 level has a critical role to play with regard to academic performance, study habits and the path to the university entrance examinations. Students who are dedicated to an intensive English immersion in the prep year encounter a wide array of responsibilities as they move on to grade 9. At the point of dealing with this new burden and responsibilities, parental support, open communication and a supportive family environment is extremely important. At the presentation on October 12 which addressed all these issues as well as the ÖSYS system and the impact of academic performance on overseas applications, provided the parents with the opportunity to ask questions about both the courses and correct approach to take with their children.



Creative Activities In The German Class – II

Various activities and games make up an important part of the German class which help active participation of students.

Students who learned about the daily conversational patterns under the theme of “Our Body” and “Illnesses”, were involved in a series of role-play activities.





This year, the Oktoberfest celebration at TAC saw strong enthusiasm from the students on October 14, 2016 with a different theme this year.

As part of the activity, TAC hosted “German Rap on the Road” with Ebow band based in Germany, with the contribution of the Goethe Institut. Ebow treated TAC students to a very productive four-hour workshop. Being divided into two groups, the students wrote their own lyrics to their own rap song! Then, with the help of DJ Nick, they developed the melodies for their songs. The atmosphere and interactions experienced during these activities were very unique and a lot of fun for everyone. At the end of the workshop, students went onstage with the German rap band to sing the rap songs they wrote and composed during the day.

Ebow band members carried the Oktoberfest cheer by singing their rap songs as well.

Our guests from Tarsus Fatih Anatolian High School were also with us at the concert after tasting the Oktoberfest menu offered at the cafeteria during the lunch break. The program presented by the student MCs, Beste Özyürekoğlu and Kutay İleri, who were in their traditional German costumes received large interest from the audience.

The Octoberfest tunes played during the day to replace the regular bell tone added to the creation of the Oktoberfest spirit in the Tarsus campus.



Leadership Conference

SEV American High Schools

SEV Leadership Conference, an annual activity for students of SEV American high schools, was hosted by ACI this year on October 20-22, 2016. The three-day conference brought together the student councils of SAC, UAA, TAC and ACI. Students who were introduced and shared a conversation during dinner continued their interaction to “Get Out of the Room” later in the evening, in a exciting game putting to use team work, problem solving and group dynamics. They later left with the ACI families hosting them for the event. Everyone was in agreement that this environment really helped break the ice between students who have not met before. Students who has their breakfast together at the school were divided into four groups, listening to the presentation by Sercan Çelebi, a Yale graduate who is one of the founders of the “Oy ve Ötesi Association”, a non-profit for the monitoring of the ballot counting process at the general elections. The very nature of his professional background facilitated the discussion of very important questions, such as the meaning of being an active citizen, and how does one become an active citizen, and its importance in leadership. The first part of the discussion was 45 minutes. In the second part, some current global and social problems were identified through various activities, and the students tried to bring rational and workable solutions to them, being close witnesses to how an individual can lead. Following lunch, they watched presentations of each school, telling about their activities and leading community service activities. Another aim of the Leadership Conference was to help inspire each student council about new practices and to learn from one another. By the end of the day, the student leaders have learned many new things about active individuals and social problems they can lead to resolve.

The third day of the conference was dedicated to a cultural trip to Alaçatı / Çeşme where students got to know more about each other, as well as the beautiful seaside towns of İzmir. The closing of the event was at school, with the students wishing to meet at other joint school events.





Veterans Badminton Tournament in Antalya



On the weekend of October 28-30, Headmaster Andy Leathwood and Tarsus SEV P.E. teacher Yuksel Bařaran traveled to Antalya to compete in the Republic Day Veterans Badminton Tournament in Antalya. Players attended from all over Turkey. They represented the Tarsus Schools well. Yuksel won the gold medal in both singles and mixed doubles and Andy won silver in men's singles for his age group. Congratulations to both of them.



The administrative teams from all SEV schools met at the workshop titled “Art of Leadership” which reinforced the synergy of communication and collaboration between the schools

Bookmobile

Ulaş Village Elementary School



Grade 10 (October 22, 20016)

Our History teacher Hasan Turgut grade 9 and 10 students Abdullah Kılınç, Cevahir Bozkurt, Doğu Yurtsever, Mert Kepece visited the Ulaş Village Elementary School in Tarsus with the bookmobile vehicle.





Nature Awareness Day

Prep (October 27, 2016)
The first activity of the “Environmental Studies” conducted by TAC’s Prep Level administrators and teachers with Prep students in the current academic year was held on October 27, in the form of a “Nature Awareness Trip” to the mountains of Camliyayla.

The purpose of this field trip was to explore the nature around us, collecting filth and waste materials from the natural surroundings and to prepare a project by recycling materials that is contained in the nature.

Everyone participating in this activity, where friendships were made stronger, students and teachers spent social time and many photos were taken, expressed during the return trip that they had a lot of fun and that they were looking forward to the next one.

A Creative Activity In The German Class

Before entering another busy week, we decided to use an unorthodox way of making the learning memorable for grade 10 students who take German, knowing that “however real and applicable vocabulary learning is, the longer the retention of information will be”.

Therefore, students who decorated the classroom by hanging baby/child clothes contributed to the group “collage”, which was an innovative tool of learning German vocabulary.





TAC Maths Department At The Educational Technologies Workshop

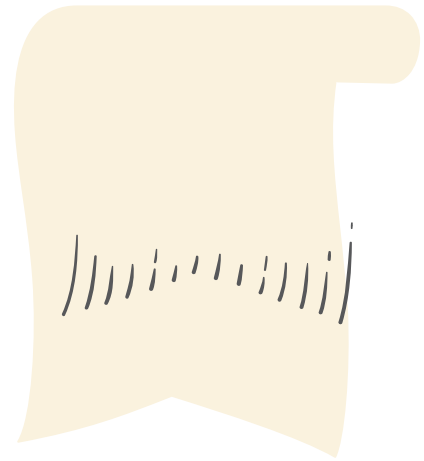
(October 15, 2016)

This century is progressing fast, bringing about an increased development of technology in every part of human life. In line with this process and objectives, our school is trying to keep abreast of new technologies, with an effort to make them an integral part of teaching and learning.

TAC has organized a Workshop for the Mathematics Department on October 15, 2016 in order to help improve students' IT skills through technological tools and programs.

Teachers of the mathematics department will continue to apply these new educational technologies to their classes during the year and keep current with future innovations.

Google Drive Applications And Its Innovative Approach



In the modern age of technology, “cloud storage” is a widely used concept. Google Drive is a popular application with many innovations in the area of educational Technologies. As a Google School, Tarsus American College closely monitors and implements the educational Technologies introduced by Google.

All students have found the opportunity to use unlimited cloud storage and ease of communication



Preparing For Real Life: Student Council Elections At TAC



Tarsus American College Student Council is a structure designed to teach students about a democratic way of life, help them take an active role in school activities and contribute to the organizing of such activities.

The Prep students of TAC, who are the newest members of this structure, took the first step in exercising their democratic right by nominating a female and a male candidate from each class using secret ballot and open counting of votes. As the last step of the elections on Tuesday October 18, they voted to elect their representatives at the Student Council. As a result of this round which was also conducted on secret ballot, Sinan Yalçın from Prep D, receiving the highest number of votes was elected to the Executive Board of the Student Council while Talin Kış from Prep F was elected as the TAC Student Council member.

We congratulate the elected students and wish to see a successful performance from them as part of the TAC Student Council.



The activities of the YGA (Young Guru Academy) which aim to raise leaders were promoted in a presentation at TAC on October 18, 2016.

At the presentation titled “Leadership Praised by Leaders”, examples of individuals who were trained by the program were provided. It was explained that this two-year program helped to raise leaders who will soar with two “wings”: one being the self-confidence to act on innovative ideas, and the other one representing a selfless dedication to work and achieve as a team. The program also includes an online leadership school and leadership camps which helps the internalization and realization of the authentic leadership concepts outlined by the YGA.

This presentation’s being designed in an interactive format helped open new perspectives in the minds of the participants.

TAC Grade 10 Students On The “Leadership Journey”

