



**TARSUS
AMERICAN
COLLEGE**

MONTHLY PARENT NEWSLETTER

2016 - 2017
NOVEMBER



TAC Mourns On November 10



At 9:05 on November 10, all hearts at TAC, like the rest of the country, were beating for Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

The Atatürk Commemorative Assembly prepared by the Second Foreign Language department was full of touching moments.

The assembly, which started with a moment of silence and the Turkish National Anthem, continued with the remarks of Dr. Duygu Gülev, Academic Dean about Atatürk. This was followed by an enactment by students of the last days of Atatürk on his deathbed. The audience then listened to the ballad “Yemen Türküsü”, one of Atatürk’s favorite folk ballads, sung by Lara Aksoy, with Yiğit Tamer Tetiker on guitar.

Following an impressive oratorio, we listened to the poem of Osman Edip Türkmen from our French teacher Anıl Baydar, aided by the dramatization of a group of students. The ceremony closed with the song “Dağ, Taş, Deniz” presented by Aysel Büyükkardeş and Buse Orak.

40 years will not be enough to pay our respects to Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, our nation’s great leader, let alone 40 minutes of a classroom period. We will carry him in our hearts and minds forever, not only on November 10 of each year.

TAC's Both Tennis Teams, Boys And Girls, Received The First Place In Mersin.

At the provincial tennis games in Mersin which took place between November 28-December 1, TAC's boys and girls tennis teams received the first place in Mersin.

With this result, they now qualify to attend the Regional Championship.

We congratulate the students, wishing them continued success.



Journey Of Reading And Sharing

“Bookmobile” activity is one of the highly valued community service projects of Tarsus American College, and the Turkish Literature Department alike.

As part of this year’s programme which rotates between five village schools in Tarsus, TAC students have been offering English, Turkish and Drama lessons to primary and middle school students, playing games with these children and sharing books during their fortnightly visits.

On the visit to the Kaleburcu Elementary School on Saturday November 5, our students alternated between the roles of teachers and playmates.



The lessons and the enjoyable conversations between the two school’s students, joined by TAC’s Activity Coordinator Gülay Damar and Turkish Literature Department Chair Önder Şit, were followed by the eagerly-anticipated book exchange, building a bridge of “reading and sharing”.

The smiles on the faces of these young children reading their new books was the strong indicator that this connection will be long-lived.



Teachers Day Assembly

SPECIAL FOR TAC TEACHERS!

The assembly for the Teachers' Day on November 24, prepared by the Science Department teachers and the contributions of students from different grade levels, started with a tribute to the nation's head teacher Ataturk and all teachers who have lost their lives. This was followed by the national anthem being sung in unison.

The schedule, which was presented by our students Onur Ay and Eliz Erdal, continued with the remarks of Mr. Orhan Baycık, the Grade 11-12 Dean and History Teacher, and Mrs. Gülay Damar, our Activity Coordinator and Turkish Literature teacher, the experiences of whom have contributed to student planning in many areas.

Then we all watched the video presentation by 11 IB students Ege Telatar and Onur Ay which included the personal messages to teachers by various students, followed by a slideshow of photos prepared by Yağmur İlba and Fem Yüksel.



The event had a colorful musical ending as our music teacher Aslı Son and a group of grade 9 students were joined by our teachers Sibel Kanık, Nail Baran, Ahu Tereci Dursun and Tuba Karabağ, and, then at the end, by all teachers, on the stage singing popular songs. The teachers were presented with small gifts as a memory of the day by Student Council representatives Metehan Mertoğlu and Yankı Balta, and by the Principal Ms. Günseli Yüksel.

Once again, we share our deep respects for our teachers.

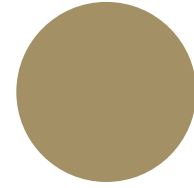


Exploring Ankara Universities

The tour of Ankara Universities, which has an important place in TAC's "Career Counseling Services" for TAC's grade 11 students, took place on 3-4 November this year.

During the trip, which was supervised by school counselor Özlem Algan and Mr. Orhan Baycık, Assistant Principal of grade 11 and 12, the students visited Ankara, METU, Hacettepe and Bilkent Universities. In addition to receiving detailed information about university life and programs, they had a chance to observe life as a university student in Ankara. One of the highlights of this trip was the visit to Anıtkabir Mausoleum to pay a tribute to our nation's great leader.

Thanks to the TAC graduates who accompanied us during the trip and their sharing of their experiences about university life, the trip was a lot more fun and rewarding. Therefore we thank Koray Hisarlı (TAC'13), Ege Kandemir (TAC'16) Deniz İğören (TAC'16) , Eylül İğören (TAC'16), Denizhan Kaynak (TAC'16) and Ali Can Gürsoy (TAC'16) for joining us during our visits.



French And German Food Club



The purpose of our club's activities is to help students who are interested in culinary culture to research about the staple dishes of the French and German cuisine, as well as to teach them about various cooking techniques.

The food made during the club hours is tasted by the students, and often, is consumed entirely at that time!

Sometimes, the food which is left over is sold for community service activity and the funds generated are used as donations for the village schools and animal shelter.

During the club period, students apply not only their newly-learned culinary skills but also care, respect, team spirit, and sharing.

French and German Cuisine Club features activities which teach students the intricacies of cooking.

As you can see, our club does not only teach French or German and the cuisine, but also some fun facts about the cultures of these countries.



Our Student Efe UTKU Receives Second Place in İnönü Cup Equestrian Hurdle Races



Efe Utku, a senior student, won the second place at the İnönü Cup Equestrian Hurdle Races organized by the Turkish Equestrian Federation at the Adana Atlı Sports Club.

We congratulate Efe on this achievement and wish him luck in the upcoming races.



Visiting our Canine Friends

On Saturday, November 12, a group of friends and I visited the dogs living in the Mersin Gözne Animal Shelter. This visit helped develop our awareness about the environment and the living things sharing our ecosystem.

During our trip ,we were accompanied by the staff members and the veterinary doctor, Mustafa Bey. While we were petting and taking care of the dogs, we received information about the breed of dogs left in the shelter and the operations of the shelter.

As well as the sincere care and affection shown to these sweet residents of the shelter, who, we are sure, need these as much as human beings, we also took there some materials which will help them during the winter months such as newspapers, polar blankets, and rugs, all of which were bought through the generous contributions from our friends who were not able to make it to the visit.



Çağla Küpük (TAC - 10 B)





On November 8, TAC hosted lecturers and assistant deans of Bilgi University: Asst. Professor Dr. Fatma Didin Sönmez and Asst. Prof. Dr. Faruk Ziya Fırat, who shared valuable information with TAC's grade 11 and 12 students about the twenty-year-old "Dual Diploma Program". This program is offered to Bilgi students in conjunction with the London School of Economics (LSE), one of the best "business" schools in the world.

This program is a great opportunity provided to academically strong students to receive a university diploma from both Bilgi University and LSE.

In the presentation, it was also explained to the students that they have a chance to receive an internationally-recognized certificate which would help them reach very competitive career goals by coming into contact with many companies which are strong players in the business world.



TAC Girls Volleyball Team At The "Shepard Cup Volleyball Tournament"

Tarsus American College Girls Volleyball Team participated alongside its sister schools in the Shepard Cup Volleyball Tournament on November 4-5, 2016 at ACI, İzmir.

Students left this well-organized athletic event, which had some stiff competition as well, with great memories and with new friendships made.



*We thank our hosts,
American Collegiate Institute
for organizing this event.*

TAC “Sets Sails” To Promote Sailing Among TAC

Cengiz Sönmez, TAC 75 graduate and Vice President of the Mersin Sailing Club, Selim Sıdali, General Club Captain, Trainer Hale Ege and Disabled Athlete Tayfun Günaydın were at TAC’s Stickler Auditorium on November 15, 2016 for a presentation to grades Prep-10 about sailing as a leisure sport activity.

The presentation touched on the impact of sea and sports on human psychology, the benefits of this branch of sports, as well as the optimist and laser boats.

After the presentation at the auditorium, the students who were interested in sailing were invited to give it a try in the boat simulator set up in the ceremony area.

We thank them for visiting the school and broadening the horizon of sports in our students’ minds.



Çukurova - TAC Interact Club

In July 2016, the Interact Club, founded by fifteen students from TAC, received their Charter Document with a ceremony held at the school on October 24.

Those in attendance at the ceremony were Güner İnci, the Governor of 2430th District and his wife, Nagihan İnci; Gonca Ayık, Assistant Governor responsible for Adana clubs; Tuncay Coşkun, the Term President for Adana Çukurova Club as well as the board members of the Cukurova Rotary Club and their spouses.

Reiterating the importance of young people of Turkey, and in other parts of the world, Tuncay Coşkun, the President of the Çukurova Rotary Club, emphasized that the involvement of these young people in community service today will mean that they will be working in partnership for the resolution of these issues tomorrow.

He explained that Interact is a service club founded under the sponsorship of Rotary with members aged 14-18 years old. Their name comes from the combination of "international" and "action".

The founding president of this young club is TAC's grade 11 student, Cansuz Naz Antmen. With the ceremony, the club officially launched its activities to serve the community, with a membership of 24 students in various grade levels.



The members of the TAC Interact Club are:

- Prep A - Yusuf Bilge Yılmaz,
- Prep B - Elif Bilge Akça,
- Prep B - Ali İhsan Doğan,
- Prep B - Ela Naz Özkut,
- Prep C - Adahan Yiğitöl,
- Prep C - Esra Ekin Köse,
- Prep D - Alara Güner,
- Prep D - Nil Mürşitoğlu,
- Prep D - Nazlı Tuyan,
- Prep D - Sinan Can Yalçın,
- Prep E - Yüksel Tuvana Yalçın;
- 10 B - Ber Naci Gülalp,
- 10 B - Letisyay Meryem Lin Sayek,
- 10 B - Yağızalp Coşkun,
- 10 D - Ömer Dikencik,
- 10 D - Ali Özeltin;
- 11 A - Nil Yağmur İlba,
- 11 A - İrem Narin,
- 11 A - Umut Barış Özen,
- 11 B - Fem Yüksel,
- 11 C IB FM - Çetin Çelikyılmaz,
- 11 D IB TM - Hayriye Belit Karalı,
- 11-D IB TM - Cansu Naz Antmen;
- 12-IB FM - Erol Gelbul.



A Memorable Visit To The Tarsus Elderly Citizens Home



On November 12, 2016, the Mathematics and Science Departments of Tarsus American College organized a visit to the Tarsus Elderly Citizens Home.

TAC students were accompanied by their mathematics teachers Enise Peker, Kelly Russell and Sinan Yozukmaz, and their science teacher Musa Avşar. In this visit, they had the opportunity to show their elderly hosts that they are valued. It was a fun learning process for all the students attending.

They served the cakes they brought with them to the residents. The conversations were warm and the day was enriched for both students and the elderly citizens.

At the end of the visit, TAC students promised to come back soon, and indeed, were already planning their next visit on the way back home.

We commend the exemplary efforts of our students Buğra Ergin, Sude Sevindi, Aksel Kalaycıoğlu, Eren Gökmen, Düzgün Can Guyıldar, Abdullah Kılıç, Sude Kılıç, Buse Orak, Döne Gül Biçer, Elifnaz Kaya, Ömer Dikencik, Mert Kepece, Cevahir Bozkurt, Ege Telatar, Onur Ay in organizing and being a part of the visit.





The Blind Date With A Book

The Turkish Literature Department of Tarsus American College continues to organize interesting and innovative learning activities.

The “Blind Date with a Book” project, initiated this year with the hope of further development each year, was warmly received by TAC’s prep students.

For the project students disguised the books that they read, concealing the book’s name and decorating the cover with their brief write-ups and illustrations, trying to prevent the on-lookers from “judging the book by its cover”, helping the students meet with new books which may possibly change their lives.

The inspiring remarks by the Prep student Sude Naz Arıcı welcomed the guests at the launch activity. The anecdote from Balzac’s life as told by Mr. Önder Şit, the Chair of the Turkish Literature Department, was quite moving. This was followed by an animation which depicted the magic of books.

The activity which concluded with Prep students running to the books and trying to look at their cover - trying to see if it’s a good fit for their reading pleasure - was a good culmination of the event, with each student leaving with a book that they were eager to explore.

Uskudar American Academy Autumn Basketball Tournament

TAC's high school basketball team attended the Autumn Basketball Tournament on November 11-13, 2016 hosted by Uskudar American Academy. The high school basketball team became the Tournament Champion by winning in four games.

The tournament saw the representation of four SEV American College sister schools through their boys basketball teams.

- Tarsus Amerikan Koleji (TAC)
- Üsküdar Amerikan Lisesi (UAA)
- İzmir Amerikan Koleji (ACI)
- SEV Amerikan Koleji (SAC)

The team ranking at the end of the Tournament is;

1. TAC
2. UAA
3. ACI
4. SAC

Also in this tournament our captain of the TAC basketball team, Metehan Mertoğlu, was selected as the MOST VALUABLE PLAYER.



Three Unforgettable Days In Ankara, The Capital Of Creative Drama



In the morning of Friday, November 11, 2016 we met with the fellow members of the Turkish Drama Club to set out for Ankara for a creative drama training to which we have been looking forward.

The energy, enthusiasm and the excitement of the club members were evident from the trip to Ankara. After arriving in the capital at noon, we settled into our rooms, started breathing the cool Ankara weather and had something to eat before the workshop. Then we went to Dikimevi, the neighborhood hosting the training, where six hours of training just flew by. By the time we were dismissed for the day, we each had learned many new things about drama. We played games about group communication, stage information, and focus in acting and shared a lot of laughter along the way. It was very valuable for us to have the new prep students well integrated into our drama group and we were able to reach our goals by the end of the first day.

On the second day of the training, a new trainer and another six hours of training was waiting for us. We used the first day's wealth of information on this second day, reflecting and acting upon each new skill. We had breakout groups in which we performed creative drama games. As theatre enthusiasts, we eagerly received every bit of information that the trainer taught and were awarded certificates at the end of this two-day training. Our faces reflected the sense of achievement and intense learning as well as our appreciation for having this opportunity. We then used our free time to visit main attractions of Ankara with our club teachers Önder Şit, Mikail İncir and Niyazi Pavlaz, whose combined energies were as intense as the students'. On the day of the return trip, which was Sunday, we visited Anıtkabir, Atatürk's mausoleum, which would truly be memorable as we were in Atatürk Week. Waiting for our turn to enter the shrine of our nation's great leader, we strolled through the Lion Road then walked up the steps to the monument accompanied by the changing of the guards. We also visited the museums and left Anıtkabir with intense longing for Atatürk's presence today.

After some free time at a shopping mall, we left for Adana. We thank everyone who organized the trip.



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