



**TARSUS
AMERICAN
COLLEGE**

MONTHLY PARENT NEWSLETTER

2019 - 2020

SEPTEMBER



The 2019-2020 Opening was Marked by the Turkish Flag in the Historic School



The Turkish Flag, which has swayed in Anıtkabir, home to Atatürk's eternal rest, and replaced with a new one on 30 August 2019, was brought to Tarsus American College (TAC) with the initiatives of the Health and Education Foundation (SEV). The flag was received with a ceremony held at Anıtkabir and was proudly carried on the shoulders of students at the opening ceremony of 132-year high school, rising on the flagpole.

Delivered from Anıtkabir with a Ceremony

The Health and Education Foundation (SEV), the governance body of Tarsus American College (TAC), made a request to take the Turkish flag, which was replaced on 30 August 2019, to Tarsus American College. Upon the request, this special flag was received at a ceremony held on the 3rd of September 2019. The flag was presented by Colonel Hakan Osman Sert, Commander of the Mausoleum, and Colonel Muzaffer Taytak, the commander for the previous term, to Mr. Refik Kutluer, Board Member at the Health and Education Foundation.

Students Carried it Proudly

The Turkish flag brought to Tarsus from Anıtkabir was handed over to Tarsus American College (TAC) at the opening ceremony on September 9 by the SEV administration. The Turkish flag, which was proudly carried in the hands and on the shoulders of the students, will be displayed on the 132-year old historic campus of the school and will continue to sway proudly at the opening ceremonies each year.

The members of the SEV Board of Trustees and the Board of Directors at Health and Education Foundation, SEV executives, TAC graduates and TAC parents who were present in the Opening Ceremony expressed their pride in the fact that this special flag is being protected in Tarsus, in its new home at Tarsus American College.



European Youth Parliament



Grade 10 students Yiğit Acar and Doğa Bölükbaşı participated in the “First Cultural Forum of the European Youth Parliament” in Austria. As a part of the Turkish Delegation, they represented our school and our country by sharing their ideas related to problems which are on the European agenda, and by working in committees with the members of the European Youth Parliament from across Europe to draft laws, with the opportunity to find solutions to these problems. We congratulate our students and wish them continued success.

In the 90th International Session of the European Youth Parliament in Spain

Yiğit Acar, TAC’s grade 10 student, received the honor of participating in the 90th International Session of the European Youth Parliament in Spain, a first in TAC history. During the 10-day session, he worked with the members of the European Youth Parliament. Students came from 39 European countries to work on drafting laws to be sent to the European Commission and to vote on the draft laws in the parliament. We congratulate Yiğit for this accomplishment and wish him success in his role in the Turkish Delegation.



TAC Students Cleaned the Nesting Area of the Sea Turtles on the International Coast Cleaning Day



Tarsus American College (TAC) students continue their social responsibility project for the endangered sea turtles (*Caretta caretta* and *Chelonia mydas*). The students who collected garbage that prevented the sea turtles from reaching the sea on the Mersin-Davultepe coast during the first phase of the Project, also offered information sessions for locals. With the end of the nesting season, TAC students recently cleaned garbage from the nesting area of the sea turtles in Mersin-Kazanlı as part of the "International Coast Cleaning Day".



The Duke of Edinburgh International Youth Award



The Duke of Edinburgh International Youth Award is the world's leading youth achievement award. The program, sponsored by the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation, established in London in 1956, is divided into three categories: bronze, silver and gold. The award program, which includes skills development, physical development, voluntary service, adventure and exploration components, as well as the additional social adaptation component in the gold category, has the objective of imparting in young people between the ages of 14 and 24 with life skills that will help them make a difference in their community and the world and preparing them for life.

This program, which is offered at TAC, is presented to the students in the beginning of the academic year by award leaders. The introduction of the award program this year drew large interest by the students.



TAC Welcomes Boarding Students to Their Second Home



TAC's boarding student orientation for the 2019-2020 academic year started with the arrival of the new students and their parents to our campus on Saturday, 7 September, 2019 at 14.30. Students and their parents listened carefully to the presentation about boarding life at TAC in the Stickler Auditorium.

The presentation started with the opening remarks of our Headmaster Mr. JT Rehill and our Principal, Ms. Ahu Arslan. After the introduction of the whole dormitory team by Mr Hasan Turgut, Assistant Principal in charge of the Dormitories, the program continued with the presentation by Mr. Bahadır İyilikeden, Dormitory Manager, about the boarding life and the rules. After the school doctor Ali Cerrahoğlu's information about the infirmary and cafeteria, Sinan Öz, Head of Counseling Department, shared information about the counseling services provided by the school. The meeting ended with our students finding out about their rooms with a draw.

Following the dinner in the school garden with the participation of our school administrators, boarding staff, peer counselors, counseling department and the new boarding students and parents, the students said goodbye to their families and met with our guidance counselors and peer counselors.

The next day, the students woke up to a warm, but beautiful morning in Tarsus and joined the Tarsus tour after breakfast with their teachers and parents. After the Tarsus tour, they were involved in various orientation activities by teachers from the P.E. and music department and Turkish Language and Literature teachers Niyazi Pavlaz and Tuba Karabağ who led creative drama activities. The program facilitated their adaptation to their new environment and made both the students and their parents happy.

We wish all our students a healthy, successful and happy academic year.



TAC Second Foreign Language Starts 2019-2020 by Teaching the Difference Between Cultures

At the beginning of the 2019-2020 academic year, TAC's Second Foreign Languages Department (German and French) emphasized the fact that there are different cultures in the world and that students should be informed about the culture of that language before they learn the language. The aim of the department is to introduce cultural studies which is one of the central approaches in the field of communication studies of foreign languages. Grade 10 students studied Germany, France and Turkey through this lens and based their projects on the cultural differences.

The existence of many different approaches and methods is crucial for the diversity of strategies in foreign language instruction. In this way, the teachers of the Second Foreign Languages Department have once again stressed the purpose and importance of the research to our students.

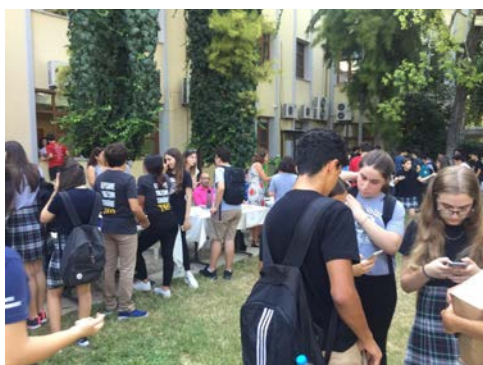




At the beginning of the 2019-2020 academic year, the selection of club activities is always a fun and exciting process for students, regardless of the fact that it is compulsory. Social activities and clubs which are an integral part of learning allow the student to transform his / her knowledge into experience.

The clubs, which introduced their activities in the school yard on the first Wednesday of the academic year, were selected by the students through “QR code” this year. The importance of choosing a club out of 49 offered, the activities of which the student will participate during the whole semester or year is quite a big one for our students.

Two weeks after their selection, students will be given the opportunity to change clubs. After the final selection, students will be able to actively participate in the club. In this process, students take on various social roles and develop self-confidence, teamwork, analytical thinking and leadership skills while preparing for life.



Breakdown of Universities

Universities	Student Number	
Koç University	9	1 100% 8 Fee-Paying
Bahçeşehir University	9	1 100% 6 50% and above 2 25%
Çukurova University	8	
İstanbul Bilgi University	7	5 50% 2 Fee-paying
Yeditepe University	4	1 100% 3 Fee-paying
Orta Doğu Teknik University	2	
Sabancı University	2	Fee-paying
Ege University	2	
Başkent University	2	Fee-paying
Bilkent University	2	Fee-paying
İstanbul University	1	
Ankara University	1	
Yıldız Teknik University	1	
Dokuz Eylül University	1	
Beykent University	1	1 100%
Özyeğin University	1	50% scholarship
Acıbadem University	1	25% scholarship
Çağ University	1	50%
Türk-Alman University	1	
Mersin University	1	
Gaziantep University	1	
Adana Alparslan Türkeş Bilim Teknoloji University (Adana)	1	
Bezmi Alem University	1	

List of University Programs Preferred

Faculties	Number of Students
Business Administration	9
Industrial Engineering	7
Law	5
Economics	5
Medicine	4
Dentistry	2
Mechanical Engineering	2
Electrical-Electronic Engineering	2
Business Engineering	2
Food Engineering	1
Chemical Engineering	1
Engineering and Natural Sciences Programs	1
International Trade and Business Administration	1
Automobile Engineering	1
Computer Engineering	1
Energy Systems Engineering	1
Molecular Biology and Genetics	1
Administrative IT Systems	1
Psychology	1
Maritime Administration	1
Arts and Social Sciences Programs	1
Business Administration / Economics	1
International Relations	1
Biology	1
Physics	1
Journalism	1
Statistics	1
Teaching of English	1
Translatino and Interpreting (English)	1
New Media	1
Communication and Design	1

Students who were placed in the top 100
Emirhan Nasıf SAY: 13, Y-SAY: 24
Yağmur Suntur Y-Dil: 59

Students who were placed in the top 1000
Yağmur Suntur Y-TYT: 340

STATE UNIVERSITIES: 20
PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES: 40 (18 Fee-paying)

Number of Students Graduated:	82
Number of Students Taking the Exam:	81
Number of Students Making a Preference:	61
Number of Students who Made a Preference and Gained Admission:	60 (1 student for overseas)
Success Rate:	98.33

2019-2020 Library Orientations Completed

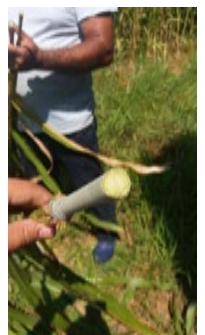
Students who transferred into grade 9 together with prep classes and those who came to TAC with an exchange program to receive IB trainings were presented with the rules about the operation and the use of the library. After the presentation, students had the opportunity to get to know the library better through a 'library scavenger hunt'.



The Biotechnology Club

As the Biotechnology Club, we harvested the sweet sorghum (*Sorghum bicolor*) plant that we cultivated in May 2019 with the opening of the new academic year. Sorghum grass had reached an average length of two meters. Sorghum plant, known as the cheapest source of sugar in the world, is an energy plant suitable for fermentation with its high sugar content.

We extracted the sap by cutting the sorghum plant, which forms the first leg of our club activities. We then prepared for the second stage, which is bioethanol production. The club is preparing for the "TÜBİTAK High School Science Competitions" under the consultation of Prof. Dr. Murat Gizir, the Dean of the Faculty of Sciences at Mersin University. TAC Biotechnology Club also plans to produce a prototype vehicle with proton-exchange membrane and to build partnerships with various European countries through Erasmus+ program.



The Boarding Student Orientation of the Counseling Department

The orientation program for boarding students of 2019 - 2020 started on Saturday, September 07 at 14.30 with the arrival of students and parents to the campus. In order to support the new boarding students, our peer counselors accompanied them on this day and introduced themselves. Families and students had the opportunity to receive information and ask questions through dialogue with peer counselors.

After the dinner attended by parents, students, peer counselors and teachers, parents left the campus, leaving the students in the dormitory. The students then participated in the integration activity organized by TAC psychological counselors; getting to know each other and the counseling department. Emotions were shared, common activities were conducted and students were asked about their expectations. The event ended with the good wishes of the students for the year.

Orientation activities for boarders continued on Sunday, 8 September with breakfast with parents and students, and at 10.30 with the English proficiency exam. While the students were in the exam, our counseling department involved the parents in a meeting. All the parents introduced themselves in order, divided into groups and asked to answer questions within the group. The activity concluded with responses to questions by the Counseling Department, about issues related to school and boarding life, and the letters written by parents to their children.

After lunch, our parents left the campus. Immediately afterwards, our new boarding students spent time with peer counselors. In the orientation activities led by the peer counselors, our boarding students had the opportunity to ask questions about the school as well as having an enjoyable time.





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