

ISSUE #4
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VIRTUAL Voice

Tulsa Learning Academy



More great stuff inside!!



Hello citizens of TLA,

This is a note from your current student council. We'd like to extend an invitation for you to join us and become a member of the Tulsa Learning Academy student council. We'd like to tell you that our student council is a great opportunity for you to have contact with real people while you're in the TLA virtual world. You will also have the opportunity to contribute to your school and community (and it looks great on your college application)!

With our second year of student council up and running, we'd like to welcome diversity into our group, and encourage everyone to join. One of the many benefits that each person receives in student council is school credit in a leadership course. You will also be able to propose and vote on things that matter to the student body and the school.

We are here to help and assist you in every way possible, but to keep this great association going, we need you to join us. Email Mr. McDonald at mcdonde@tulsaschools.org to be admitted into the student council committee.

Sincerely,

Aubrey, Sabiel, and Ashley
Student council members

How to Serve Someone Who Just Wants a Hot Plate of Food and Still Manage to Make Them Smile

by Aubrey Siess

This past Friday, January 9th, our Student Council went to feed the homeless. Now what you should know is that before we went on Friday, we had to decide where we would go to do community service. Mr. McDonald's suggestion to go feed the homeless sounded good, so we all agreed with happy hearts to do it. But I don't think anything could have prepared us for what we saw on Friday morning. You walk in and put on an apron, put gloves on, serve food, then leave. Right? Wrong. We got there early, around 8:15, and we could already see the droves of people waiting outside the "Iron Gates." As we stood in our serving positions, we waited for the people to come in. One-by-one they each came in with eager eyes and hungry stomachs. As I put the food on the plate and show them a smile and ask them how their



morning was, I start to think. "Will this be their last hot meal for the week?" "How did they fall on hard times?" "Do they have a family, any kids?" And as all these questions floated in my head throughout the morning, I spotted a small shadow running across the floor. "Just fruit for him please" said a woman. I look down and see the cutest little boy; no more than 4 years old. I pointed him out to my friend Sabiel, and as we smiled and "awwwed," we also felt sadness. We felt sad that this little boy might have a few

pairs of clothes and only a little to eat on daily basis. I look around the room and then I start to notice, these aren't just older people. There are children, and teenagers like me, and even young men and women who looked like they could have just gotten out of high school. But there is a somewhat constant feature in the room: smiles. At least 2 people at every table were smiling, eating, and conversing. Sure their lives may not be the best right now, but they were only concerned at what was going on at that moment. They saw that they had a hot plate and a friend to talk to. And I think that is what impacted me the most. Just being able to hand those people a plate was basically saying, you are safe here, go sit down, relax, and have a hot meal. Whenever we saw someone walk in with a frown, we would just smile say "hello, how are you?" And that was all it took. We learned that these people hadn't just come to eat; they came to see at least one happy face, a friendly face. That is why I am so thankful that my Student Council group got the experience of getting to go and serve food and help be a friendly face to those in need.

The ABC's of Tulsa Learning Academy

- A Achieve your dreams.*
- B Believe in yourself.*
- C Consider every option.*
- D Do your personal best.*
- E Excellent work gets the job done.*
- F Family and Friends are hidden treasures.*
- G Give more than you plan.*
- H Hang onto your dreams.*
- J Imagine great things.*
- J Just do it!*
- K Knowledge is the key.*
- L Love yourself first.*
- M Make the most of everyday.*
- N Never give up!*
- O Open your mind.*
- P Practice makes perfect.*
- Q Quitters never win.*
- R Read!*
- S Stand up for what you believe in.*
- T Transform yourself.*
- U Use your best.*
- V Visualize your future.*
- W Want to be the best*
- X Xcelerate your efforts.*
- Y Yearn for more education.*
- Z Zero in on your goals.*



By Aubrey Siess

Life's Little Mysteries

Most of you should be able to recognize the picture that goes along with this...it's the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.. A few years ago, while taking a group of eighth graders through the capital, I spoke with a docent (a type of tour guide) about the memorial and he told me a couple of "urban legends" about the statue that are very mysterious. The sculptor, David Chester French it seems has several connections to outside influences that he incorporated into the statue. First are Lincoln's hands. It has been said that French did a sculpture of the man who invented sign language, it has also been said that French had a son who couldn't hear, so French knew sign language. Either way, if you look at Lincoln's hands as you approach the memorial you will see that his hands are making the sign letters for A & L, his initials.

The other story the docent told me was even more mysterious. Directly behind the Lincoln Memorial is the Potomac River. And right across from that is Arlington National Cemetery. Now Arlington National Cemetery was the home of the Great Confederate General of the Civil War, Robert E. Lee. Before Lee became the General in charge of the Confederate army of Virginia, he was offered, by President Lincoln, the opportunity to lead the Union army. Lee told Lincoln he could never fight against his beloved state of Virginia, and refused the offer. Many in the Union army were angry about this so they made a decision to bury all

the un-claimed dead from the Union army, in Lee's front yard. This became the origin of Arlington National Cemetery.



Needless to say, Lee and his Confederate army lost the war, and he never returned to the home he loved so much. I mean would you want to live in a house with thousands of dead soldiers buried in your yard?

The legend states that French was moved by this story when he first heard of it, and later when he was commissioned to sculpt the Lincoln statue, he tussled up the hair on the back of Lincoln's head into a profile shot of Lee's face. If you stand in one certain spot of the memorial (which I am in the photo) you can see Lee's profiled face in Lincoln's hair.

What do you think? Send us an email to Mr. McDonald or Mr. Vess with whether you see Lee's face, or believe in the legend.



By Sabiel Bhuiyan

“My blue ‘3-D’ picture was produced by the use of water marbling. This process calls for a special kind of paint, which floats onto of the water. My personal painting was produced by splattering my colors all around the water plate and afterwards using a special tool to move the colors around and create the design. Traditionally the artist places the paper down on the paint and removes it right away. After I placed my paper on the paint, I wiggled the paper back and forth to create the ‘steps’ or ‘3-D effect’.”

Being Lucky

Get a horseshoe,
Get a lucky rabbit's foot
Stay away from black cats,
St. Patrick's Day is said to be lucky.
Be sure to wear green,
Or you get pinched a lot!

By Ashley Warshum

"I love writing random stuff down and eventually some of this random stuff turns into poetry or a story. My poetry normally has a theme that conveys emotion. Sometimes it doesn't repeat lines or words, or rhyme or rhythm. Sometimes it's just a little collage of thoughts that fit together."

Virtual Voice Contest #1: Where's Waldo?



If you can find Waldo in this picture, be the first to e-mail your reply to Mr. McDonald and you could win one of the following:

1. Trip for two to Morocco
2. Dinner for two at Fleming's Steakhouse
3. Four extra E2020 Oklahoma History Tests

Disclaimer: Awarded prize determined by the staff of Tulsa Learning Academy.