

Dear Students, Parents/Guardians, and Staff,

We, the Journalism Staff, are sending you our KVA Newsletter! It is not the one we had planned to send, full of sports news, Senior news, and the day to day hustle and bustle that fill our hallways. However, we are making lemonade from the lemons we have been handed. We recognize we have it better than other places in the country. This inconvenience will disrupt our daily lives for a time, but we won't let it defeat us!

For me, Online Classes have been a challenge. Am I going to be able to teach TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD and OF MICE AND MEN the way I had planned? Well, no, but when I send out questions, I am getting amazing, thoughtful answers, and I can reply to that one student! The silver lining is a lot more one on one instruction! Is it time consuming? Yes, but I can work in my sweats, and not comb my hair if I don't want to. Do I miss Taco Salad Day, you bet! We are all trying to establish a new normal, new boundaries, increased creativity, but we are all dedicated to providing our students with the very best education humanly possible! This situation is a challenge for all of us. Working together, finding those silver linings, paying forward to those who need our help, these things make us stronger and make that lemonade sweeter!

I would also like to send a shout-out to my Executive Staff – Ira Wilder, Austyn Abbott, and Myles Ball. They are awesome. The Yearbook, the Newsletter, my sanity, we owe to them. They have truly stepped up to the challenge. Mrs. Pam Humphries, my partner and co-advisor. Pam is the technology whiz. She's learned everything about that end of production for the Yearbook and Newsletter. We are so lucky to have her and I am especially grateful for her commitment to KVA and our students.

Enjoy our Newsletter! Brooks Spencer – Journalism Advisor

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Edited By:

Myles Ball

Co-Editor-in-Chief

Senior Accomplishments

One of our seniors, Emily Carr, has committed to play volleyball at Chowan University. Emily has been playing since her seventh grade year here at KVA. She has proven to be an outstanding athlete and continues to make our school proud every time she hits the court. Congratulations to our talented Emily. We cannot wait to see you continue to represent our school in a great way.



Maya Lopez

Newsletter Staff

Left: Emily poses with her family and coach after signing to Chowan University



Above: Ira Wilder enjoys his time on campus during finalist weekend.

Senior Accomplishments

This time of the school year can be very stressful for seniors as they are getting answers from colleges and determining a path for their future. For one student, in particular, this time was especially stressful as he was waiting anxiously to get the notification that would determine his very future. On March 6th, Ira Wilder got that email that congratulated him on his accomplishments as he had been awarded the Morehead-Cain Scholarship. This merit scholarship foundation awards an elite group of only 70 people a fully paid college experience at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Competition is fierce and we are extremely proud of our very own Ira Wilder for being awarded this prestigious honor.

Scholarships finalists must attend the finalist weekend held on UNC-Chapel Hill's campus. I asked Ira about his experience that weekend. He said his favorite moment was the banquet. "The finalists were fed such an exquisite dinner in an even more exquisite location: the Wilson library," he expressed. He mentioned that the finalists had the opportunity to dine with university professors who teach in specific fields of interest.

I spoke with Ira about what he was most looking forward to as being a Morehead-Cain scholar. He responded, "I'm most looking forward to the opportunities that it provides." He expressed that "the greatest part is a scholar's ability to connect with other scholars. Past Morehead scholars have gone on to be NC governors, like Roy Cooper." "I am most excited to have the opportunity to pursue whatever academic and professional interest I find along my journey."

We are extremely proud of Ira for his phenomenal accomplishment. We wish him luck at UNC-Chapel Hill next year. Go Tar Heels.

Austyn Abbott

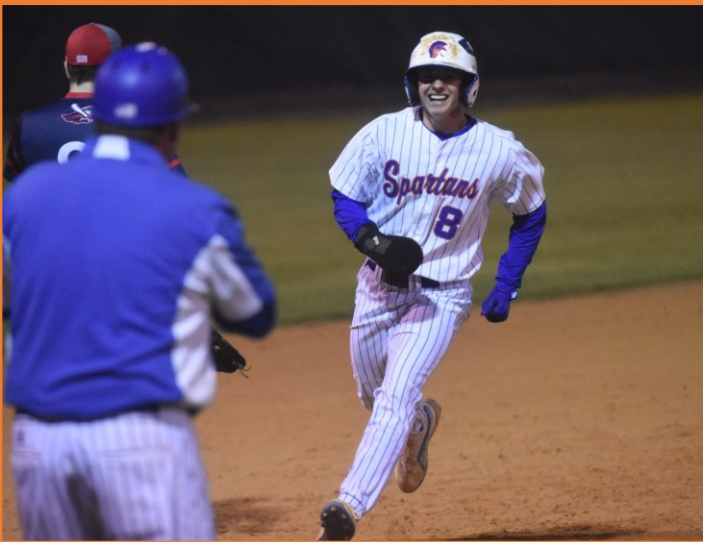
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Senior Accomplishments

Senior Colby Wilkerson has committed to UNC-Chapel Hill to play baseball. Colby has played baseball here since the seventh grade and has been a leader on the field for all three of Kerr Vance's State Championship's while at KVA. He has been an example of Kerr Vance's excellence on the field and in the classroom. Congratulations on continuing your baseball and academic career Colby, we know you will represent Kerr Vance well in the future.

Pamela Humphries

Co-Advisor



Life at the Lake

As the early effects of the Corona Virus begin to develop and take hold on our nation, and especially our state with the recent “travel” ban and other precautions; all people, businesses, churches, and most parts of daily life are affected by closings, shortages of essentials, and an overall change of lifestyle. While some choose to hunker down in their homes and wait it out, many lake goers took this opportunity to enjoy the warm spring days and get some fresh air! Both Satterwhite Point Marina on Kerr Lake, and Rudds Creek Marina on Buggs Island Lake in Virginia, hosted many of these boaters, with 30 launches from Satterwhite Point’s dry storage facility on Saturday the 28th and a full parking lot of houseboat owners and wet slip renters throughout the weekend. Many saying they came to escape the crowds, practice “social distancing,” and enjoy a safe family activity outside of the house. Although the marinas will continue to operate for employees with anti-Corona protocols in place, it is unclear whether customers will continue to be allowed even though they qualify as an essential business due to many of the boats docked there being considered second homes. Both locations plan to remain open under normal hours until required to close, and will continue to post updates regularly on their Facebook pages.

George Hughes

Newsletter Staff

College Acceptances

It's almost graduation and it's time to look back at all the hard work our Senior Spartans put in, and highlight some of the amazing admissions' achievements our students have earned. But first, we want to thank all of our supportive parents, teachers, and staff at KVA, because they were there every step of the way.

We want to personally congratulate Ira Wilder, recipient of the Morehead-Cain Scholarship at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a prestigious full-ride scholarship! Not only this, but Kerr-Vance had an outstanding number of acceptances this year at NC State and UNC-CH.

The class of 2020 also achieved acceptances at numerous prestigious out of state schools including Wofford College, Georgia Institute of Technology, Franklin and Marshall College, and Sewanee: The University of the South.

Cumulatively, our class of 2020 received acceptances at over 34 schools across numerous states, and received a number of merit-based scholarships. We are saddened to see them go so soon, but we at KVA look forward to hearing about all they achieve in college and beyond. Congratulations Class of 2020!

David Folger

Newsletter Editor

Sports

Baseball

Today we are living under tough circumstances that nobody is used to or prepared for. Our everyday lives have changed drastically being placed under quarantine and having to socially distance ourselves. I'm taking this time to reflect on school and how much playing baseball at Kerr-Vance Academy has meant to me. Playing baseball with my brother and cousins brings heartfelt memories I will never forget. Winning three State Championship Titles was awesome, and this year we planned to win another. Even though winning another title will not happen, I truly believe we went out on top. I am disappointed with how my time at KVA will come to an end not only for myself, but my fellow seniors as well. I love KVA and will always cherish the friends and memories I have made at school. When this storm clears, most of us will be on our separate journeys and I wish you all the best.

Colby Wilkerson

Newsletter Staff



Sports

Varsity Girls' Soccer

And just like that, the Varsity Girls' Soccer Team's season ended just as quickly as it began. After making another run to the state championship and losing six seniors last season, the fate of the team was uncertain. So when this season rolled around, it was not all sunshine for the squad, quite literally. With day after day of rain and a shortage of numbers, the girls did not get the start they had anticipated. It was not until after some essential additions that the team was finally starting to come together. Even with the additions, expectations for the season were not high. But the Spartans defied the odds and started with a 4-0 record, and the girls were just getting warmed up and building their chemistry as a team. As a senior who has been a member of the soccer team for the last five years, this is not the end that I had anticipated for my athletic career as a Spartan. I am heartbroken not only for myself or the other seniors on the team, but all seniors who had their last season ripped away from them. I am sad because we did not get the opportunity to finish what we started and are just left with 'what could have been.' But, I am left with some great memories, and am still extremely proud of the team for their unconditional hard work and dedication. I am thankful for the coaches Raz and Farmer who believed in us and taught us the importance of teamwork. Most of all, I will miss being a member of a team that truly felt like a family. I cannot wait to see what the future has in store for Kerr-Vance Academy Girls' Soccer. I will forever be grateful for the lessons I learned and for the opportunity to be a Spartan.

Lorena Negron

Sports Editor

Sports

Girls' Softball

Softball, a sport that has not been at Kerr-Vance since 2012, has made a sudden comeback this year. KVA managed to pull together a solid group of nine people, consisting of two seniors (Maya Lopez and Chessie Foster), two ninth graders (Jakira Fuller and Meg Riley), three eighth graders (Kiyona Patton, Libby Cash, and Abbey Drake), and one seventh grader (Kaiya Patton). The team is coached by Megan Ascyue, along with some help from parent Tim Patton. According to Megan Ascyue, "A lot of our girls have never played before and to see so much improvement after a few weeks of practice was awesome." She stated that her hopes were very high for this year's softball team, considering the rapid rate at which they were improving. Sadly, however, with the onset of the COVID-19 virus, the girls will never get a chance to truly prove themselves this season.



Jake Watts

Newsletter Staff

Clubs

National Honor Society

While always being present on campus, the NHS has become an active club this year. Brooks Spencer and Camila Rogers took charge of the club at the onset of the year and sparked a surge of activity. First semester saw NHS create and display the KVA Christmas Tree at the Festival of Trees. Their first fundraiser was selling peanuts with steak house coupons attached. Plans to donate to the local animal shelter had to be side-lined for now. The Society intends to become more active on campus each year.

Spirit Club

The spirit club continued their regular yearly agenda up until the suspension of in-person learning. In February, they sold carnations for Valentine's Day and continued spreading cheer and raising school spirit for sporting events. Adviser Randi Niles told the journalism staff in an exclusive interview that the isolative experience "is teaching us to appreciate more of our lives and each other." The spirit club sends a schoolwide message to keep the Spartan spirit up, even in these challenging times!

Ira Wilder

Co-Editor-in-Chief

Clubs

FCA

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes has driven the faith initiatives of the school for the entire school year, and have not let online learning and isolation stop them. President of the F.C.A. Colby Wilkerson said that he and his fellow F.C.A. members are “praying for the world, doctors, and people affected. God never promised we would have it all perfect. We are faced with hardships each and every day. God promised he will always be by our side, never leaving nor forsaking us.” The fellowship looks forward to continuing their efforts if or when the student body returns to campus.

Prom Steering

There is no doubt that the prom steering committee has been the most affected by recent developments. Prom was initially scheduled to occur on the night of March 21st, yet these plans were dashed by the quick spread of COVID-19. The adviser of prom steering, Winnie Ballinger, has stated that she is working closely with Mrs. Short in order to set a new date. Yet, there is no need to fear. The club has worked extremely hard throughout the year to ensure that prom goes off without a hitch: gifts have been purchased, decorations are ready to be put in place, and logistics are currently being solved. Mrs. Ballinger stated it best, “When we finally get to it, the evening will be stunning.”

Ira Wilder

Co-Editor-in-Chief

Clubs

SGA

Since the publication of the previous newsletter, the student government has been extremely active in their endeavors. Monthly nursing home visits continued through February; yet, with the rise of health concerns, delivering colored cards replaced visitation in March. In February, the student government purchased a new printer and ink set to provide the upper school with color printing opportunities. Taking into consideration the developments of the current pandemic, the president of student government, Ira Wilder, stated that "if given the opportunity, we will pick right back up where we left off when we return to school."

Ira Wilder

Co-Editor-in-Chief

Spanish Plays

This past February, the sixth period Spanish III class participated in a fun event led by their teacher, Mrs. Niles. The class split into groups to perform two different plays in Spanish. The groups practiced their lines and brought in set props for their final performance. Other classes were invited to come and watch their performances, and the class provided popcorn for their audience members. One group acted out "Rapunzel", called "Verdezuela" in Spanish, and the other performed "Jack and the Beanstalk", titled "Juan y Las Habas Magicas". The plays were a fun activity that allowed sixth period to display their Spanish language talent while entertaining their fellow classmates and teachers.

Faith Himmel

Newsletter Staff

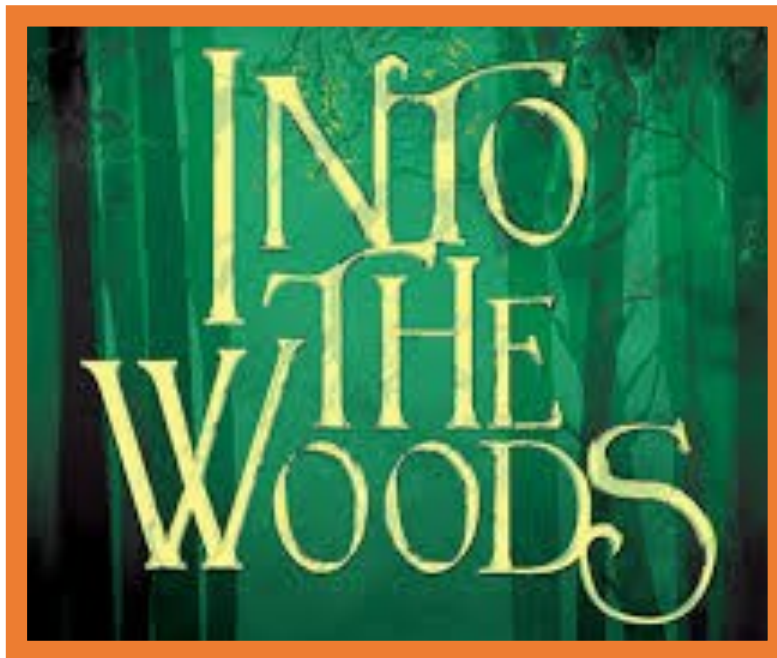


Into the Woods Play

On February 7th, the whole high school took a trip to McGregor Hall. The school enjoyed a musical called, "Into the Woods." The musical combined multiple classic fairy tales, such as Cinderella, Rapunzel, Little Red Riding Hood, and Jack and the Beanstalk. These popular classics were twisted, and the stories intertwined into a complicated and modern three- hour story. Other local schools, such as Oxford Prep and Vance Charter, were in the audience as well. Once the production was over all of the students enjoyed lunch at either Pizza Inn or Pizza Hut. The high school then returned to school after a great play and lunch.

Maya Lopez

Newsletter Staff



Casino Night

The annual Kerr-Vance Academy Casino Night was held this year on Saturday, February 22 at the Henderson Country Club. The event started at 6:00pm and featured fun activities such as poker, roulette, and 21, with play money, of course! There were opportunities for attendees to win an abundance of prizes, such as a weekend lakeside cabin rental, gift baskets, and gift certificates. There was also the addition of a grand prize worth two thousand dollars. In between all the casino fun, participants were treated to hors d'oeuvres and could take part in a "wine pull". The night was a great success and generated funds to be used for the development of the school.

Faith Himmel

Newsletter Staff

This event is a successful fundraiser thanks to wonderful KVA Family, parents, grandparents, friends, faculty & community supporters who recognize "The Future Is HERE." We appreciate the generous gifts needed to make tonight profitable for KVA. Those sponsors and donors are:

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Valentine's Dance

The Valentine's Dance is a newer KVA tradition that is enjoyed by KVA's younger students, K1-4th arrived at 5:00, and 5th- 8th began at 7:00. This year, the dance was forced to postpone due to the number of students that were affected by the flu in early February. The dance was held on the 28th. Parents watched as their children danced to the music and had fun with their friends. Many kids enjoyed the Fun Photo Wall that was decorated with pink and red hearts.

Alex Keith was the DJ. A big thanks goes out to all the families that donated the food and helped make the dance such a success. It is safe to say that during this difficult time away from our KVA family, the Valentine's Dance is a delightful memory from the second semester at KVA.

Edie Echols

Photo Editor



Optimist Oratorical Contest

On February 29th , the Henderson Optimist Club hosted their annual Optimist Oratorical Contest at the Maria Parham Hospital Conference Auditorium. Kerr Vance has competed in this competition for the past three years.

Surrounding schools are notified several weeks in advance, given a topic, and competition rules and guidelines. This year's topic was "Just Imagine a World without Boundaries?" Rules include addressing the topic in the opening sentence and speaking for four to five minutes. Mr. Tommy Farmer is our contact and is always so helpful.

KVA has won the last two years, and this year was no exception. Represented by Zoey Ivey and Andrew Hight, both students in Mrs. Spencer's Public Speaking class, Zoey won first place and a cash award of \$150, and Andrew placed second winning \$125. Plus, winning , and even competing, looks great on College Applications and resumes. Third place was a Henderson Middle School student. The next round of the competition was to be April 4th , but has been postponed to a date to be named later.

Congratulations this year's winners, Zoey and Andrew!



Prom and Graduation Postponement

Tensions have been high for our upperclassmen during these difficult weeks, as prom and graduation have been postponed until further notice. Our Seniors are anxiously and patiently waiting to hear any news about their special day, however, according to Ms. Hillery, as of now, there is none. "We are all hoping that things will turn around and we can plan, but we can't right now" she says. She and Mrs. Short are on top of the situation, and are both very hopeful things will start to look up very soon. Even though no date is currently set, the KVA Staff is determined to give our Seniors the day they have all worked so hard for.

In brighter terms, Mrs. Ballinger has been working very hard on the new possible date for prom. Currently, the venue is reserved for April 25th, however, these plans are not concrete, as the news on the virus continues to change daily. If things have not changed, and our gathering size is still too great, prom may be moved to May or early June, however, Mrs. Ballinger and Mrs. Short continue to think of the different options we have to make this work. "Gifts for seniors are purchased, crowns for royalty are ready to be donned, and the Roaring 20s decor has already been beautifully designed by the venue! The promenade walk under a gorgeous crystal chandelier is still our plan! When we finally get to enjoy it, the evening will be stunning!" Mrs. Ballinger says. As the Spartan family, we are all very hopeful things will change, and will get back to normal very soon. "COVID-19 has presented a great challenge to our class, and to the continuation of the traditions of our school. Yet, it is not an insurmountable challenge!",

Senior Ira Wilder adds, "We will hold out hope for the best, and come out on the other side". As this virus continues to change, our spirits remain high, and will continue to go through this together.

Zoey Ivey

Copy and Caption Editor

Social Distancing

In early March, the entire state was thrown for a loop as all schools were ordered to begin their own versions of remote learning due to the spread of the highly contagious COVID-19 or Corona Virus. With this order, our students were put to the task to stay at home and practice what is known as “social distancing”. While some young individuals do not take this act seriously, most KVA students, such as Leah Moseley, are taking this act seriously to help prevent themselves, and those around them, from contracting the virus. She optimistically stated, “I practice social distancing so that I can go back to school and finish this year, as well as the soccer season.” Others are also doing their part by staying at home and washing their hands, and only going out when it is essential, such as to the grocery store or to pick up food from a local restaurant. If students at our school and in our community continue to practice social distancing, we will be back to school, sports, and a fun rest of the semester very soon.

Lauren Moseley

Art and Layout Editor

Online Classes

Due to the wave of COVID-19 hitting the U.S., school was ordered to close, and Kerr-Vance Academy had to turn to online schooling. As to the many benefits there are regarding online schooling there are also downsides. Via Google Classroom, teachers send out different assignments that are either due that day or another set date. This also allows students to work at their own pace through the day and become more independent. It also helps in organization, if you have multiple assignments due Friday that were assigned on Monday, you are able to space it out throughout the week. I appreciate and understand why we are having to do this, but at times, it can be a little stressful. Learning new topics can be difficult, especially if the student depends on or prefers, face-to-face learning. Still, the majority of teachers seem to be doing a great job in helping students understand new material and adjust to this method of learning. I miss the interaction of the classroom and seeing my fellow classmates and many of my teachers, but this is only a bump in the road. The student body and I look forward to returning to campus, whenever that may be.