

## FAVORITE SUMMER EVENT

EKEOMA  
KALU (12)



"[Spending] two weeks in New York with my family from an African village in Nigeria"

CHLOE  
MAIER (9)



"Fourth of July weekend at Tybee [Island] because I was with my best friends"

DANIEL  
RUDDY (12)



"Church camp in Johnson City, Tennessee"



### BAREFOOT READING

Barefoot on stage, Tyler Thomas (11) shares a poem about his grandfather. "[Reading without shoes] relaxes me and makes me feel more comfortable with myself," Thomas said. After sharing his emotional story, Thomas returned to his seat and listened as fellow classmates read their works in front of the audience.



### INACTIVE ATTRACTION

Darius Kelly (11) stands in front of fellow classmates and reads his poem "Inactive Attraction." "When I read my own product and had it published, it was a huge accomplishment that made me think about pursuing poetry in the future," Kelly said. After reading his poem, Kelly left the stage as the audience snapped with approval.



### FIRST EXPERIENCE

Standing in the dim spotlight, Maggie Cribbs (11) reads her published work, a poem titled "The Bookshelf." "The literary journal was a new experience for me. I had never done anything like it," Cribbs said. Cribbs was given a chance to read her first publication on Thursday, May 21 in front of fellow classmates.

### BIG SMILES

A smiling Southern Britt (11) stands on stage, reading her poem "The Tale of Debauchery." "Reading my own work was different, but an awesome experience," Britt said. Britt ended the poem with the same wide smile she started with, despite the serious tone of her literary work.



# ECHOING MEMORIES

TYLER THOMAS (11) SHARES  
PERSONAL STORY AT FIRST  
LITERARY JOURNAL READING

Design by Emma Zipperer. All Photos by Joshua Brewer.

The sound of snapping slowly faded, followed by a short silence.

A chair scraped across the tile floor, creating a screeching sound. Leaving his seat in the back row of foldable chairs, Tyler Thomas (11) walked to the stage. He stepped into the spotlight and looked out at the crowd, hidden in the dark of the Oasis building.

Thomas sat on a wooden stool and cleared his throat, attempting to settle his nerves.

"I was very nervous about reading in front of everyone," Thomas said. "I'm not good at those things. [I decided to read because my] granddad would have wanted me to read [the poem in front of everyone]."

Rows of students, faculty, and parents flipped through the pages of the student-created literary journal, *Echo*, and listened to Thomas as he spoke. They found his work, a poem titled "The Night Hell Broke Loose." Using the dim candlelight, the crowd read the words as Thomas spoke them.

"I wrote [the] poem for the main reason that my granddad just passed away. [I thought about] the time I got to spend with him," Thomas said.

The poem found its place on page 51, amongst 45 other student writing entries. Like several of the featured writers, Thomas was given a chance to read his poem to the crowd. Like several of the featured writings, Thomas' story carried an

emotional significance.

"I was very happy to get to write in this book," Thomas said. "[Through the literary journal reading, I] was able to express how much of a great man [my grandfather] was."

Thomas' poem about his grandfather allowed him to share memorable thoughts

through creative writing. He was able to share his emotional memories of his grandfather with the crowd at the Literary Journal Reading.

"I did get emotional, mostly because it just brought back memories that I had with [my grandfather]," Thomas said. "I would definitely [write for the literary journal reading] again if we did another one of these events."

Thomas whispered the last line of the poem- "I love you and miss you." He walked off of the stage and back to his seat in the back row. The slow sound of snapping filled the room once again, serving as a cue for the next student to share their story.

Story by Abby Brunn

## ECHOING WORKS

A FEW STUDENTS SHARE THEIR PUBLISHED LITERARY WORKS

### CIVIL BY MAX WILLIAMS (11)

war between people that are from the same country it is called civil?

### NEAR THE RIVER BY HARRISON CLARK (11)

Lurking near the river. Stopping. She stood still. Eyes locked on mine. Ready to kill. My entire soul began to shiver.

### GREED BY MATTHEW RANDALL (11)

do not greed do not need the money it controls the aspects of your life if your life is controlled by the green and the greed or the need you can not live a life worth living

### GOD KNOWS

All eyes are on Alena Kramer (11) as she reads one of her two poems published in the literary journal. "I was nervous but as I started reading my poem I became more comfortable," Kramer said. Kramer's poem "Birds Sing, Sun Rises, God Knows" allowed Kramer to express herself through writing.

