The FALCON
ARBORBROOK CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
Fall 2024

ROOTS — Close the Gap

Introducing the new Roots 3.0: Close the Gap logo, a symbol of our progress and the final steps ahead to reach our Capital Campaign goal. Let's work together to close the gap!

Closing the Gap:

Arborbrook Christian Academy's Roots Campaign

As we enter the final year of our ROOTS campaign, we pause to praise God for His faithfulness over the past two years and to thank you for your generous financial support of our future building. To date, we have received nearly $730,000 in donations, with pledges bringing our total to nearly $1,100,000. Praise the Lord!

ROOTS 3.0: Close the Gap

This year's tagline, Close the Gap, reflects our urgent need for expansion. Over the past five years, Arborbrook's enrollment has grown by 24%, creating a daily challenge as we find ourselves out of space. We seek to partner with you to provide the remaining funding necessary for our proposed classroom building. This new facility will benefit upper school students, while lower school students will have access to newly available spaces, ensuring every child at Arborbrook has a conducive learning environment.

Commitment to Our Educational Values

Arborbrook remains steadfast in its commitment to the Charlotte Mason educational philosophy:

- **Education is an atmosphere:** Our classrooms serve as an extension of home, where students feel safe, respected, and held accountable to high academic and moral standards.
- **Education is a discipline:** Our teachers model and encourage godly habits, enabling students to thrive.
- **Education is a life:** Through nature studies, outdoor education, living books, community involvement, and service days, students learn to connect their education with real-life applications.
- **Education is a science of relations:** Children learn their

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Featured Article

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place in the world and how to share God's truth, impacting others with His light.

Progress and Future Steps

Over the past two years, our board and administration have been diligently praying for God's direction to preserve Arborbrook's unique educational environment. Here's what we've accomplished:

1. **Building Relationships:** We've established partnerships with individuals and businesses to support Arborbrook's future.
2. **Grant Proposals:** We have submitted several grant proposals and begun relationships with foundations that can contribute to our long-term goals, potentially providing significant funding for this project.
3. **Collaboration with Central Baptist Church:** We continue to explore new avenues for long-term campus improvements.
4. **Funding Options:** We have reviewed various funding options, carefully selecting those that align with our values, while also avoiding options with restrictive government regulations.
5. **Researching Loan Options:** As we navigate our future, we are committed to finding a balance between the need for new facilities and maintaining affordable tuition rates for families.



Future front of Arborbrook Upper School

How You Can Help

To get shovels in the ground, we need $925,000 in additional giving. This amount represents gifts that have not yet been pledged to the ROOTS campaign.

If you have pledged within the last two years, thank you for your faithful giving! Your continued support is crucial as we approach our goal. For those who haven't pledged yet, we invite you to consider making a generous, tax-deductible gift to help us Close the Gap. Your contribution will aid in constructing a building that serves our students and their families for God's glory.



Future back of Arborbrook Upper School

Join Us for a Celebration

With ROOTS established in love, we are excited to create the space our students need to thrive. We trust that, with the support of our community, this will be the year we Close the Gap. We will provide regular updates on our progress as we move forward.

Lastly, we invite you to a special event on December 6 at 6:00 PM to review our plans and celebrate God's faithfulness to Arborbrook. Join us for a Christmas-themed gathering filled with food, fun, and fellowship. Childcare for Arborbrook students will be provided by National Honor Society members. For more details and to RSVP, please visit **arborbrook.org/closethegap** or scan the QR code below to learn more and RSVP. We hope to see everyone there!

ROOTS

established in love, creating space for students to thrive

Student Life

Homecoming Dance: A Night in Rio

The "Night in Rio" Homecoming on October 5th was a vibrant celebration! A very special thanks is owed to the student council, parent volunteers, and awesome faculty chaperones. The gym was packed with energy and decked out with twinkle lights and Rio-inspired decor. From themed treats to a dance floor that stayed packed, students had a night to remember. Arborbrook extends a warm thank you to everyone who helped make this unforgettable evening a success for our high schoolers.

High School Students Chosen as Class Representatives on Homecoming Court

Congratulations to the High School students who were chosen to represent their classes on the 2024-2025 Homecoming Court. Freshman Court: Naomi Quaranta and Ezra Briles, Sophomore Court: Taylor Knight and Andy Gill, Junior Court: Katie Moore and Anders Hedenborg, and HOMECOMING SENIOR KING and QUEEN: Gabi Hart and Dominic Andrade.



Pictured Left to right: Ezra Briles, Naomi Quaranta, Anders Hedenborg, Katie Moore, Dominic Andrade, Gabi Hart, Andy Gill, Taylor Knight

New Middle School Flag Bearers

This fall, our middle school students learned the important task of raising and lowering the flag. This daily duty will add meaning to the start and end of each school day. A special thanks to Ms. Mitchell and Mr. Schindler for providing guidance and instruction, helping prepare them for this honor.



Photo of the Middle School flag bearers who will serve for the 2024-2025 school year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 14 - 16
The Sound of Music Production

November 21
All School Assembly & School Spelling Bee (Grades 4-8)

November 25 - 29
Thanksgiving Break (No School)

December 2 - 5
Food Drive benefitting Community Shelter of Union County

December 20 - January 3
Christmas Break (No School)

A Forest of Freedom

Written by Carina Brossy, Nature Studies Teacher

Charlotte Mason describes education as an "**Atmosphere, a discipline, a life.**" One of the most unique classroom atmospheres at Arborbrook lies just beyond our field and into our woods. With dirt floors and a leaf-dappled ceiling, this 2-acre classroom has no walls – and we don't want any. The Arborbrook woods, with winding walking trails, hosts a wide variety of mature tree species including oaks, hickory, red maple and more. Even more abundant and varied are the insect, reptile and bird populations that call these woods home. A small creek emerges at the end of our wet winters inviting amphibians to lay their eggs and every mammal to take a refreshing cool drink. A true natural oasis in an ever-developing suburb, the school woods offer even more than a space to observe nature.



Third Grade boys pose for a photo while collecting materials to build a life-size bird nest.

I asked several students to share what they love most about our woods. I assumed they were going to speak specifically to the individual ecological components – the trees, mushrooms, insects and birds. Instead, and with great enthusiasm, they offered several "less scientific" descriptors:

- Freedom
- Cozy
- Community
- Inspiring
- Peaceful
- Fresh air
- Great change of scenery
- Gentle atmosphere

I was most intrigued by the word "freedom", so I asked students to explain this word. Several sixth graders reflected that their recess time in the woods made them feel free. As one student added, "We can make our own fun." There are no balls, board games or man-made accessories. It's nature and it's imagination, a place to be free. I was very inspired by this idea. While we do have structured outdoor activities and nature lessons in K-12, it was the consistent outdoor play-based learning in the woods that gave them the most joy.

> "EVERY TIME I COME TO THE WOODS, I FEEL LIKE GOD WANTS TO TELL ME SOMETHING."

This time in the woods is not only available for lower school, but experienced in the older grades as well. Set under a canopy of trees, upper school writing assignments, reflective discussions and project-based learning reinforce the freedom of student-driven experiences. This woodland atmosphere is a gift, and the students know it. As one student eagerly shared, "Every time I come to the woods, I feel like God wants to tell me something." The spirt of the Lord is certainly a gift of freedom.



Fourth Grade girls bathe in morning sunlight while exploring the nature trail.

Athletics

Fall Sports Recap

The Fall Sports season was packed full of excitement and achievements. Teams began with open gyms and workouts in the summer and the work put in during the off-season certainly paid off.

The smallest team, **Cross Country**, got off to a late start, but finished with a bang! Evan Still placed third for the Boys in the conference meet, and first year student, Maddi Zeni took home the Girls Individual crown, finishing first.



Cross Country Athletes, Evan Still and Maddi Zeni, pose with Coach Durst and their family members at a special recognition ceremony.

Girls Tennis continued to show class and character on the court with some really big wins. Most importantly, their sportsmanship and character shined through some challenging times. They finished 3-1 in the season and laid the foundation for a state playoff qualification next year pending NCISAA acceptance. The season was highlighted by a commanding "Shout-Out" victory over a conference rival, and a convincing 7-1 victory over a local 3A opponent.



Girls Tennis celebrates their victory! Pictured left to right: Saylor Hood, Claire McGauley, Maddie Hall, Ella Preston, Trudi Barker, Hayden Rogers

Boys Soccer put in a tremendous amount of hard work during a long and grueling season, adhering to Coach Kenyi's three R's: "Responsibility, Respectfulness, and Relentless." They will continue to build with a young roster next year, only losing one senior.

The **Middle School Girls Volleyball Team** laid a strong foundation to build on in the coming years. Under the guidance of first year coach Kaitlyn Brown, eight first-time players graced the court alongside four returning players. This team finished third in the conference. All but one 8th grader will return, and the team will make a run for the conference title next season.

Varsity Girls Volleyball left every ounce of effort they had on the court finishing second in the conference during the regular season, and making it to the finals of the conference tournament. Coach Brown will look to continue this success with eight of nine players returning, only losing one senior.

The Arborbrook Family showed up loud and proud on **Homecoming & Senior Night.**



The stands were packed at The Falcons Nest for the 2024 Homecoming Game.

Before the Varsity Girls Volleyball match, Fall Senior Athletes Sara Hockey, Dominic Andrade, and Ella Robson were recognized for their achievements in Cross Country, Boys Soccer, and Girls Volleyball respectively. Their impact on their teams and the Arborbrook campus will be missed next year.



2024 Fall Senior Athletes. Pictured with family members, left to right: Sara Hockey, Dominic Andrade, Ella Robson

The night was capped off by the Varsity Girls Volleyball team taking a thrilling five set victory before a packed house with a 16 to 14 win in the final set. The students celebrated with their peers storming the court!



Fans storm the court after a thrilling Varsity Volleyball victory!



Arborbrook Students to Star in *The Sound of Music* Youth Production

Get ready for an unforgettable musical experience as our talented students in grades 4-8 take the stage in this year's lower school production of *The Sound of Music* Youth Edition! With rehearsals well underway, our young performers are pouring their hearts into bringing this beloved classic to life. From the iconic songs to the touching story, students have embraced their roles with enthusiasm and creativity, showcasing both familiar faces and new talent.

This production not only highlights their acting and singing skills but also fosters teamwork and confidence in each performer. The show promises to be a delight for the entire Arborbrook community, offering a chance to celebrate our students' talents and the joy of live theater. Get your tickets today and come support our young stars! We can't wait to see you there!

The Sound of Music Show Times

Thursday, November 14 at 7 PM

Friday, November 15 at 7 PM

Saturday, November 16 at 2 PM

Tickets on sale at
www.arborbrook.org/sound-of-music

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