



# ***GRACEFUL WINGS*** August 26, 2011

**Grace Christian Academy's Bi-Weekly Newsletter**

**This newsletter is your official notification of school information and important dates. It is the parents/guardians responsibility to know the information contained herein.**

[www.gracechristianacademybc.org](http://www.gracechristianacademybc.org)

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## **KINDERGARTEN**

It has been a busy and exciting week in Kindergarten. In our Bible lesson, we have learned that God made each of us special and He knows our name. The children have each made a "ME" person and learning a song about how special they are in the eyes of God. In Math, we've been making AB patterns with unifex cubes and learning to form and write the numbers correctly on white boards. Learning the short vowel sound 'i' as in the word Indian and itch and singing fun songs with rhyming words has been the focus during our phonics time. Mrs. Zapolski is happy we come to school each day with a happy smile and eager to learn. Thank you to the families who were able to attend the potluck/orientation last night. I look forward to a great year. Many thanks for choosing Grace Christian Academy for your child's Christian education.

**Blessings, Mrs. Zapolski**

## **1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> GRADE**

**Ready, Set, Go...** First and Second graders are off on an exciting adventure of discovering themselves and their world around them. By gaining wisdom, knowledge and understanding, they will be challenged to **DREAM BIG!** They will go from what seems impossible to the possible. Because, everything is possible for one who believes! Let's have a year to remember! **Blessings, Mrs. Albin**

## **3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> GRADE**

Welcome back! This is going to be a great year! I have so many exciting things planned for our class. I could hardly wait to get started! Thanks to all parents who came to the meeting Thursday. If you couldn't attend, I'll enclose copy of our class rules and other things we discussed in your child's folder. The Graceful Wings is our main source of communication, so please plan to read it regularly. I look forward to working with my students and parents to make this an awesome year. God Bless! **Love, Mrs. Deen**

## **5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> GRADE**

It is great to have everyone back at school. We hope you had a great summer vacation. In the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade classroom, we are off to a great start. We have been learning the 3 classroom expectations and a Bible passage that goes along with the classroom procedures. Our new science curriculum has us very excited. **Love, Mrs. Sullins and the Fifth and Sixth Graders**

## **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:**

Welcome to the new school year! It was nice to "catch up" returning students and meet our new ones. I have had many "first day of school", and I still can't sleep the night before in anticipation of a new beginning. There is a special excitement which comes with being part of a Christian school. Each year, God pours out His special blessing upon Grace Christian Academy, and I can't wait to see what He has planned for 2011-2012. If I can be of any service to you throughout the year, please let me know. **God bless, Mrs. Harhay – Principal**

## **SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK:**

For the Lord gives wisdom, and from His mouth comes knowledge and understanding.

**Proverbs 2:6**



## **DATES AT A GLANCE:**

Monday - September 5 - No School - Labor Day  
Wednesday - September 7 - School Expansion committee at 1:30 p.m.  
Friday - September 9 - 8:00 a.m. - Special Chapel for September 11  
Monday - September 12 - 11:30 a.m. - Grandparents eat lunch at school  
Wednesday - September 14 - 1:00 p.m. - Staff and Volunteer OSHA Training  
Thursday - September 15 - School Board - 6:30 p.m.  
Tuesday - September 20 - School Portraits beginning at 9:00 a.m.

### **PRAYER FAMILY:**

Our prayer families this week are all the GCA families and staff. Please keep our school in your thoughts and prayers.

### **24 HOURS OF PRAYER AND REMEMBRANCE:**



All families at Grace are invited to St Christopher Church September 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> 2011 for 24 hours of prayer and remembrance to commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of September 11<sup>th</sup>. The students of Grace have been asked to create a paper chain listed the names of all 3000 plus victims. See Devon Tilman for more information or how you or your community group can help.

### **GRACEFUL WINGS**



#### **DISTRIBUTION:**

We will again be distributing our parent newsletter the Graceful Wings via your current e-mail address. If you do not have e-mail, or prefer to have a paper copy, please contact Mrs. Murphy in our school office! A survey was sent home to gather a consensus of whether or not to send out hard copies as well. Please send your form back at your earliest convenience.

### **SHOW YOUR PRIDE WITH OUR GCA BUMPER STICKERS:**

Grace Christian Academy Bumper Stickers are available in our office for a \$10.00 donation. We have two styles from which to choose. One says "*Grace Christian Academy Growing Kids in Grace and Knowledge*" and the other says "*Proud Parent of a Grace Christian Character.*" It is suggested that you not put the bumper sticker on a painted area of a car because it could ruin the paint.

### **SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION REMINDER:**

All scholarships need to be turned in by September 1<sup>st</sup>. Please remember to include your essay.

### **SPANISH CLUB WRAP UP:**

Thank you to all the kids who attended our Spanish Club on Wednesdays over the summer. There were approximately 10 kids each week playing, learning and fellowshiping all while gaining some exposure to the Spanish language. A big thank you to the head teacher, Mrs. Murphy and her assistants, Mrs. Jana Douglass and Mrs. Wendy Whitman.

### **MUSIC NEWS:**

We had a wonderful time in Music class on Monday. We watched a video of the Christmas program we will be performing "The Light Before Christmas" is an exciting and challenging musical. Pray for us as we begin practicing.

Love, Mrs. Deen

### **FROM MRS. MELENDEZ:**

I'm so excited to be back at Grace! It has been such a wonderful first week of school. This year I will be in all the classrooms helping out as well as teaching PE and Art! Love, Mrs. Melendez

**P.E.** – In PE this week we did stay inside due to the heat warning. It was a good time to get to know each other and learn what to expect from PE this year. Things to remember would be to make sure to have proper athletic shoes on PE Days (M, W, F) and to bring a water bottle to stay hydrated. This year will be learning about physical fitness, health and nutrition by playing different sports games and activities!

**Art** – In Art this year, we will be learning about different artists, mediums and techniques by focusing on various masterpieces. This week we read in Ephesians 2:10 that we are each God's master piece! I'm thrilled to have this opportunity to be working with such priceless *masterpieces* and to be learning about and appreciating all kinds of art. I would ask each student to bring a large shirt that they can use to put over their new uniforms during class.

### **HOT LUNCH:**

Hot lunches will be offered this fall beginning the week of Labor Day, September 5<sup>th</sup>. An order form was sent home with students and needs to be returned by next Tuesday, August 30<sup>th</sup>. Again, we will be offering Subway, Pizza Hut and Pit Stop. Contact the school office for any questions or concerns.

### **LET'S GET MOVING!**

We have a family who is interested in developing an afternoon or weekend sport activity program for students in grades 3-6. Students will have the opportunity to develop their athletic skills and have a good time using them. If you are at all interested, please notify our office ASAP.

### **SPANISH NEWS (1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>):**

The beginning of the school year is an exciting time. The anticipation for learning new things and being back with friends is cause for excitement! This school year we will approach learning new things and meeting new friends through using bilingual books. There will be a greater emphasis on learning vocabulary through reading. Our Spanish classes are used to expand our students' knowledge of the Hispanic culture and language.

Grades are given on participation and behavior. Each student begins each class with an "A". If inappropriate behavior creates distraction for others, his or her grade will be lowered a letter grade for the class. If a student is sent to the office for disruptive behavior, the parent will be notified and the student may not be allowed to participate in the following week's class.

This will be determined by Mrs. Harhay and me. We used this procedure the second semester of last year, and it was very successful in creating a better learning environment for all of us. **Dios te bendiga, Señora Douglass**

### **TARDY POLICY:**

Students are considered tardy to school if they are not on the flag salute line when the second bell rings in the morning. Tardies due to medical appointments, dental appointments or other such situations shall be considered as excused. In order for other types of tardies to be considered excused, parents have the options of calling the school before 8:00 a.m. to report that the child will be tardy that day, recording the tardy in the attendance book when the parent brings the child to school or writing a note and bringing it to the office when they bring the child to school. All of these options must be completed on the day that the child is tardy. If a parent fails to notify the school on the day of the tardy, the tardy will automatically become unexcused.

### **VOLUNTEER NOTEBOOK:**

Please fill out the Volunteer Notebook each time you volunteer. The notebook is checked each month in order for our bookkeeper to determine tuition credits for the next month.

### **PATRIOT'S DAY CHAPEL**

#### **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9**

8:00 a.m. Everyone is invited to attend chapel that morning as we remember the events of September 11, 2001 and honor the heroes of that morning. Students are asked to wear red, white, and blue that day to show their patriotism.

### **GRANDPARENTS' DAY**

Monday, September 12 at 11:20 a.m. All grandparents are invited to pack a lunch and eat lunch at school with their grandchildren. Dessert will be provided.

### **'GATE KEEPER' –**

We welcome Mr. Tom Sylvis as our morning "gate keeper." Thank you, Mrs. Sylvis for your willingness to help!

### **FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD**

#### **PRESIDENT:**

Welcome Back to school our GCA family! It is so nice to see missed faces and meet so many new ones! We have so much to be thankful for as we head into this new school year! Our talented staff have welcomed our children with love and an enthusiasm to learn. We are blessed! I Look forward to seeing our momentum continue! Thanks to all of our families as we move through the bumps of entering into a tighter uniform. Our patience and diligence will pay off and we will look as awesome as we are smart!! If finances are an issue in getting "uniformed", remember applications for financial aid are due in office by Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>! It is extra important that every have a current email address on file with the office. The board would like to get us more organized and this is another key way we can keep you informed! The board is also looking at reorganizing what we have as our PTF (parent support group). We need everyone to step up and find a way to share your talents with our school. Remember only 6 hours a month of volunteer service to the school will earn you \$30 off tuition, not to mention the benefits to our children! Look forward to more information soon... Our next board meeting is September 15<sup>th</sup> at 630 in fox hall. Join us at that meeting and you will receive a GCA bumper sticker. We have so much greatness to achieve working together, thanks for your part in it!

**In Gods Love, Devon Tilman**  
(GCA board chairman 2011)

#### **ATTENDANCE NOTEBOOK:**

There is a notebook in the office to record when children come late to school or when you are picking up your child early. Please check in at the office before dropping off or picking up students.

#### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED –**

Among other positions needed, we are in need of a parent to oversee our monthly calendars. This involves preparing the monthly calendar for parents each month with information is provided by the office staff and teachers. This is a good opportunity to earn volunteer hours at home.