

Here's the latest news and information from Grace Academy!

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Special Moments During the 4th-6th Grade Christmas Concert!

The Principal Observes

How to be More Blessed than Mary

For many reasons, Mary has a prominent place in the Christmas story. Luke 1 and 2 record that she receives a personal visit from the angel Gabriel, her prayer of wonder at bearing the Son of God, and her journey to Bethlehem to deliver Jesus in an animal stable. Luke wraps up his long comments about Christ's birth with, "And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man" (Luke 2:51b, 52). She marvels that God "has looked on the humble estate of his servant" and that "all generations will call me blessed" (Luke 1:48). She was blessed indeed.

If God did so many great things for Mary, is it possible that others could be even more blessed? Yes, they can! Luke 11:27-28, tells us that, as Jesus was speaking, "a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!" But He said, 'Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!'" The woman who made this comment was undoubtedly impressed with

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correct; Mary was special. Likewise, Jesus loved and honored his mother (John 19:25-27) and would encourage others to do the same. However, the point he is making is that people are more impressed with Mary than they ought to be. She is unique, but all true followers of Jesus Christ can experience God's blessing in even greater measure than Mary did, if only they obey and submit to the Word of God.

Virtually everybody desires happiness and blessing, yet they usually pursue them in the wrong way. In our society, people seek happiness through money, possessions, relationships, and many other non-spiritual pursuits. Jesus says that joy and blessing come through obeying and submitting to the Word of God. There is no way that you will obey the Bible if you do not know it, so we must spend our time learning what the Bible says. To submit to the Word of God we need to give careful attention to putting God's words into practice in our daily lives. The American Puritan, Jonathan Edwards, said, "'Tis more blessed to have Christ in the heart than in the womb. 'Tis more blessed to have Christ in the arms of faith and love than in the arms or at the breast as the Virgin Mary had.'" (Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus, Nancy Guthrie, p. 59)

I pray that you would desire God and His Word this Christmas season.

Calendar

Green: Elementary Events

Red: Secondary Events

Blue: All Other Events

Lost & Found, **December 14 & 15**

11:45 Dismissal, **December 15, Merry Christmas!**

School Resumes, **Tuesday, January 2**

Community Transit (Grades 1, 3, 5), **Tuesday, January 9**

No School, MLK Day, **Monday, January 15**

Re-Enrollment Rally, **January 18, 6:45 p.m., [Read more...](#)**

Re-Enrollment Opens, **January 19, [Read more...](#)**

Secondary Finals, **January 24-26, [Read more...](#)**

11:45 Dismissal, End of First Semester, **January 26**

HS Winter Retreat, **January 29-31**

JH Olympics, **January 29-31**

For the entire calendar, including events for 2017-18, see the Grace Academy Events [calendar](#) and Grace Academy Athletics [calendar](#).

Volunteer of the Month

It is our privilege to enjoy the benefit of countless volunteer service hours from those who desire to positively impact our students. People volunteer to grade papers, drive buses, help teachers, tutor students, and in dozens of other little and big ways, but it is always focused on the children. This month we wish to honor Christine Wells as our Volunteer of the Month. Christine has faithfully volunteered in Mr. Roberts' class.

When a parent volunteers in a way that tangibly aids the music program during the process of an event, I always take notice. One such person is **Christine Wells**.

Grace AcadeMix, our elementary choir, sang at the Heritage Celebration. Christine was exceptionally pro-active that night in getting these kids from one point to the other, entertaining them, having their robes on at the right time, and having them in

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the right spot. She very cheerfully generated plans that made sure our choir's part went very smoothly. My hat's off to Christine for doing all this and providing leadership in the volunteer group.

Student Activities

Attention all Rockhounds and Lapidary Artists

Coming third quarter to Grace Academy is an elective for junior high students called Geology and Lapidary. This exciting class will explore some of the geology of Washington state. [Read more...](#)

High School Snow Retreat

The annual high school snow retreat will be January 29-31. The cost is \$175 with a \$25 deposit made by December 15. The cost is \$200 without an early deposit. Final payment is due by January 8. [Read more...](#)

Speech Meet Materials

Students will have their speech meet materials by December 15 so they can work on memorizing them over the break. [Read more...](#)

Lost & Found

Small valuable items are kept in the school office. Larger lost and found items will be displayed on tables near the flagpole December 14 & 15. Anything unclaimed at the end of Friday, December 15, will be donated to Goodwill.

Christmas Holiday Office Hours

The office will be closed from December 16 through January 1. School resumes on Tuesday, January 2, 2018.

Tax Deductions

People often make year-end donations because it is the last opportunity to give tax deductible gifts for the current tax year. It is easy to make tax deductible gifts to Grace Academy from the homepage at www.graceacademy.net. Click on the [Donate](#) button to enter our secure giving site.

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