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First Grade Students Celebrating the Blessing of Grandparents!

The Principal Observes

The Developing Brain

It is easy to take for granted our brains since we all have one! This is a mistake that we make to our peril, especially in regards to our children. Researchers have focused their attention on all aspects of the brain in recent years and have made startling discoveries about its structure, function, and health. We are wise if we consider the results of what they have learned to help our children.

The brain is like any other part of our body, it starts weak and immature and grows to full maturity. Research indicates that this does not occur until well after students graduate from high school, so our job is to carefully nurture our children's brains while they are in our care. Some categories of nurture are:

Physical care. It is vital to protect the head from sharp blows by using proper safety equipment and recommended procedures to minimize danger. There are risks all around us, and the body is designed to protect the brain, so we do not need to live in fear. Yet, if there are steps we can take to offer protection we should take them. If there has already been a concussion parents should be especially careful.

Neural development. Young brains are full of neurons that are constantly creating new pathways. Eventually, these opportunities go away, and the brain does not regain them. The best example of this is how quickly children learn other languages in comparison to adults. Therefore, giving children lots of opportunities to hear music, play sports, learn languages, etc. are valuable even if the skills are not fully developed until later in life.

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who created the body was divinely inspiring them, so they were always accurate when speaking about people. This is certainly confirmed by Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." Parents have this unique time of life when they can influence the rest of their children's lives. Children need the guiding hand of parents to help shape their thinking, so the Bible counsels to "not withhold discipline from a child." This is the most critical responsibility a parent has because it affects a child not just for a lifetime, but for eternity.

My brief comments here are only designed to stir your interest and consideration. There have been many books written on the brain, and I encourage you to read on the subject. I have one titled, [Change Your Brain, Change Your Life \(Before 25\)](#) that offers helpful insights, but there are many others.

Calendar

Green: Elementary Events

Red: Secondary Events

Blue: All Other Events

K-3rd Grade Concert, **December 4**, [Read more...](#)

Secondary Concert, **December 5**, [Read more...](#)

PK Concert, **December 6**, [Read more...](#)

4th-6th Grade Concert, **December 12**, [Read more...](#)

Alumni Basketball Games, **December 13, 6 & 7:30 p.m.**, [Read more...](#)

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

School Resumes, **Tuesday, January 2**

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

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

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

Impact Students of the Month

Elementary IMPACT Student of the Month

Elizabeth Coulthurst
Yuri Nara
Chloe Ferguson
Michael Rogers
Noah Lyon
Isabella Reeves
Adrian Jorgenson
Caitlin Zyskowski
Rush Bradley
Maryanna Butok

Secondary IMPACT Student of the Month

Colton Leigh
Emma Mathews
Tim Butok
Jenna Knudson

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Student Activities

Athletics

Good Sportsmanship

As basketball season gets underway, here are some guidelines for being great fans. [Read more...](#)

Free Admission to Home HS Basketball Games for Grace Academy Students with Student ID

We are excited to announce that beginning this year all Grace Academy Students can attend any high school home basketball game at no cost! [Read more...](#)

Basketball Season Passes Available!

Season passes are now available so the entire family can come out and cheer on our high school boys' and girls' teams! [Read more...](#)

Basketball Volunteers Needed

Do you want to see some basketball games for free? A variety of volunteer positions are open to help staff our basketball games this winter. [Read more...](#)

Library Reading Reward Program

Once again, the library is sponsoring a year-long program to reward the best readers in every class at Grace Academy. [Read more...](#)

Christmas Shopping!

How does your Christmas list look? Do you want an easy way to send gifts long distance? Try shopping for SCRIP at Grace Academy. [Read more...](#)

Be Prepared for Snow

The temperatures are falling and this time of year there is always a possibility of snow on the horizon. If you have a smart phone and [sign up](#) for Flash Alert, you will receive an alert in the event of a school delayed start or closure.

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