

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

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At the recent School Spelling Bee our students were exceptional.

They had great attitudes, sportsmanship, and impressive spelling skills.

The Principal Observes

Thankfulness

character trait of gratefulness. This is an essential quality for those who want live like Christ. Though He had great power on His own, He was not independent of God and He often thanked His Heavenly Father. When He fed four thousand people beginning only with seven loaves of bread, a powerful miracle, He first stopped and thanked God. Mark writes, "And He directed the crowd to sit down on the ground. And He took the seven loaves, and having given thanks, He broke the bread and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and they set them before the crowd." (Mark 8:6) Another profound example of this is seen when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. Just before saying, "Lazarus, come forth," Jesus looked to heaven and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me." (John 11:41) If our Lord found so many occasions to thank God, how many more should His followers.

While most everyone agrees that it is good to be thankful, people find plenty to complain about. The reason for this is that it is too easy to see what we do not have instead of what God has provided. The Bible tells us that everyone is sinful and selfishness is one manifestation of sin. Jesus informed us that the two greatest commandments are to love God first, and then "your neighbor," or other people, which is contrary to our inherent self-centeredness. Sadly, society teaches just the opposite when it urges people to build their self-esteem and self-love, which leads people to look inward, and not outward. To battle this innate sin, we need to work at being thankful so that gratefulness is part of our daily lives.

To follow Christ, we need to develop gratefulness in our own heart first by reviewing all that God has given us, and thank Him. Next, we should work at thinking accurately about loved ones and friends so that we can appreciate them and tell them so. Thanksgiving Day is a week away, but I pray that every day is a day to give thanks.

Calendar

Green: Elementary Events

Red: Secondary Events

Blue: All Other Events

Scholastic Book Fair, **November 9-19**, [Read more...](#)

Grandparents' Day, **November 21**. [Read more...](#)

11:45 Dismissal, **November 21**

No School, **November 22-23, Happy Thanksgiving!**

K-3rd Grade Concert, **December 3, 7 p.m.** [Read more...](#)

Secondary Concert, **December 4, 7 p.m.**, [Read more...](#)

4-6th Grade Concert, **December 11, 7 p.m.** [Read more...](#)

PK Celebration, **December 13, 6:30 p.m.** [Read more...](#)

11:45 Dismissal, **December 21, Merry Christmas!**

School Resumes, **January 7**

For the entire calendar, including events for 2018-19, 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 focus the spotlight on a volunteer who has shown the characteristic of faithful service. **Heather Christiansen** is our Volunteer of the Month. Mrs. Christiansen is a wonderful help in our classroom. She comes in weekly to help organize and track student work and helps at class parties. She interacts well with the students. We enjoy her smile and her friendliness to everyone every time she is on campus.

School Spelling Bee

The School Spelling Bee was a tremendous event! Our top two finalists from each grade will now advance to the ACSI District Spelling Bee on January 25. Congratulations!

First Grade. 1st Place: Eleena Basta - 2nd Place: Cayden McManamon

Second Grade. 1st Place: Nolah Sainfils - 2nd Place: Emily Impola

Third Grade. 1st Place: Solomon Magnuson - 2nd Place: Moriana Sainfils

Fourth Grade. 1st Place: Aurora Hollis - 2nd Place: Phoebe Wentling

Fifth Grade. 1st Place: Madeline West - 2nd Place: Amber Nearing

Sixth Grade. 1st Place: Elijah Brent - 2nd Place: Deana Ivanov

Seventh Grade. 1st Place: Katarina Kraft - 2nd Place: Pearce Hess

Eighth Grade. 1st Place: Jack Mellema - 2nd Place: Kent Anderson

Top School Spelling Awards for 5th-8th Grades

1st Place: Jack Mellema

2nd Place: Elijah Brent

3rd Place: Pearce Hess

Congratulations Spelling Champions!

Academic

Athletics

Basketball Season is Here

Junior high and high school basketball practices began November 12. Practice times have changed from previous years so please note the practice times listed below.

[Read more...](#)

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

Grace Academy students can attend any junior high or high school home basketball game at no cost. [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...](#)

High School Snow Retreat

A not-to-be-missed event, the 2019 Grace Academy Snow Retreat is an opportunity to create memories that will last a lifetime. [Read more...](#)

2019 Washington DC/New York Trip Planning

Our biennial trip to Washington D.C. and New York is open to students who will be in 5th-12th grades in 2019. The tour is scheduled for October 5-12, 2019 and it's time to begin registering to travel! [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...](#)

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