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## Congratulations to our HS Volleyball team for participating in the State

**Tournament for the first time in Grace Academy history! Well done!**

## The Principal Observes

### Teaching Thankfulness

As we approach Thanksgiving Day, I am reminded that it is vital to teach our children to show gratitude. While being thankful comes easy to some, most children are not naturally thankful. Within the first hour of birth, babies send an urgent message that they want to eat, and they do not want to wait for it. This is only the beginning of their demands that continue for years. As they grow up, we can reason with them, teaching them concepts such as thankfulness. Even so, it takes patience and consistency because they are naturally self-focused.

I have three strategies for building thankfulness in our children and teens. First, we can teach gratefulness by modeling it ourselves. If our children hear us giving thanks, they will be inclined to follow our example. Likewise, if they hear us complaining about our bosses, paychecks, traffic, and other big and small annoyances, they will learn that grumbling is normal. Paul's command to Christians is the best; "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). I realize that this is an admonition to all of us, but it is true that children naturally follow the pattern we set.

Second, we should give children opportunities to be grateful. For example, if they have

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their chores for them. Listen carefully to their response. If you hear, "It's about time" instead of "Thank you," you have some instructing to do. For a child whose life consists of endless routines, getting relief from chores should produce joy and thanksgiving, so we want to give them regular opportunities to say "Thank you" for things they could take for granted.

Third, we must teach them to say "Thank you" for everyday provisions as well as for extra gifts. Just as we teach them to pray before meals to thank God for the food, so we teach our children to show gratitude to the preparer. If they learn this discipline, they will be saying "Thank you" at least three times a day. They will hopefully then find it easy to say "Thank you" throughout their lives and especially when they receive birthday and Christmas gifts. Of course, speaking our gratefulness is vital, but so is writing it. To communicate its importance, parents may need to set aside a specific time after birthdays and Christmases to help their children focus on writing thank you notes.

Ultimately, we want to teach our children to thank God for his goodness. James reminds us that; "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change" (1:17). Thankfulness is what we need to teach at Thanksgiving.

## Calendar

**Green: Elementary Events**

**Red: Secondary Events**

**Blue: All Other Events**

Grandparents' Day, **November 27, 11:40 Dismissal**, [Read more...](#)

No School, **November 28-29, Happy Thanksgiving!**

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[RSS](#)[K-3rd Grade Concert, December 2, 7 p.m., Read more...](#)[Secondary Concert, December 3, 7 p.m., Read more...](#)[4th-6th Grade Concert, December 10, 7 p.m., Read more...](#)[PK Concert, December 12, 6:30 p.m., Read more...](#)[11:40 Dismissal, December 20, Merry Christmas!](#)[Alumni Basketball Games, December 20, 6 & 7:15 p.m., Read more...](#)[School Resumes, Monday, January 6](#)[Re-Enrollment Rally, January 16, 6:45 p.m., Read more...](#)[Re-Enrollment Opens, January 17, Read more...](#)

For the entire calendar, including events for 2019-20, see the Grace Academy Events [calendar](#) and Grace Academy Athletics [calendar](#).

## Robotics Lego Drive

Our Robotics Team is building a Lego replica of our new building but they need a ton of Lego bricks to complete it. Please consider donating some of your Lego bricks to this amazing project related to the team's First Lego League competition in December. Students and adults can bring donations in a zip-lock bag to a teacher or drop them in the collection box in the library. Financial donations are also welcome. For more information, please contact Mrs. Goodwin at [ucanwrite2sandy@hotmail.com](mailto:ucanwrite2sandy@hotmail.com)

## School Spelling Bee

The School Spelling Bee was a tremendous event! Our top finalists from each grade will now advance to the ACSI District Spelling Bee on January 24. Congratulations!

First Grade. 1st Place: Jett Hill - 2nd Place: Dahlia DeOcampo  
Second Grade. 1st Place: Gabriel Goncalves - 2nd Place: Eleena Basta

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Third Grade. 1st Place: Nolan Saintils - 2nd Place: Trenton Danielson  
 Fourth Grade. 1st Place: Jackson Danielson - 2nd Place: Isabella Reeves  
 Fifth Grade. 1st Place: Aurora Hollis - 2nd Place: Jasmine Bajaj  
 Sixth Grade. 1st Place: Caitlin Zyskowski - 2nd Place: Madeline West  
 Seventh Grade. 1st Place: Elijah Brent - 2nd Place: Nathan Mellema  
 Eighth Grade. 1st Place: Katarina Kraft - 2nd Place: Pearce Hess

Top School Spelling Awards for 5th-8th Grades  
 1st Place: Elijah Brent  
 2nd Place: Katarina Kraft  
 3rd Place: Madeline West

Congratulations Spelling Champions!

## 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. Our slogan this year is "Becoming a New Creature." Each student has a caterpillar, reflecting how Christians start out as little creatures in Christ. As we learn, read our Bible and grow, we become more Christ-like and turn into new creatures. When they get about halfway up the graph, we will place them into a cocoon and then let them become butterflies. One student already needs his caterpillar to enter a cocoon! Our graph allows them to get credit for every minute they read and there is no limit how high they can rise! Secondary students head towards the sun for every minute or page they read, but they must come to the library to turn in their information.

## 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.

## High School Snow Retreat

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A not-to-be-missed event, the 2020 Grace Academy Snow Retreat is an opportunity to create memories that will last a lifetime. It is a chance to make new friends and grow closer to those you already know. There will be occasion to sing praises to the Lord and sit under the excellent teaching of our guest speaker, Charles Heck, who will challenge all to grow closer to the one true God. There will also be games, activities, good food and we will pray for snow.

The annual high school snow retreat will be January 26-29. The students will be leaving Sunday afternoon. All payments and registration is to be completed on [FamilyID](#). Registration will open December 1. The cost is \$175 with a \$25 deposit made by December 31. The cost is \$200 without an early deposit. Final payment is due by January 10.

### Speech Meet Materials

Classroom Speech Meets for grades 1-8 will be held in late January with the school meet on February 18. The 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade students will have their speech meet materials by December 20 so they can work on memorizing them over the break. Mrs. Struiksma will provide information and guidance in choosing junior high speech meet selections and will approve of the students' choices before Christmas break.

### Class of 2020 Fundraisers

The parents of our graduating class of 2020 are hosting two upcoming fundraisers to raise money for the student's graduation celebration.

The first will be at The Creamery Co. (1206 State Ave.) on Tuesday, November 26, from 5-9 p.m. where 10% of the sales will go to the graduation fund.

The second event will be at the north Marysville Dairy Queen (11525 State Ave.) on Friday, December 6, from 4-8 p.m. where 30% of the sales will go to the graduation fund. Please bring your friends and family, enjoy some sweet treats, and come support our senior class!\*

\*These fundraisers are being conducted by the parents of our seniors. Grace Academy is not participating in the execution of these events.

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## Good Sportsmanship

### **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. We need individuals to operate the scoreboard, the shot clock, keep the official game book, help with game-time security, setup and cleanup for junior high and high school games. If you are available and interested in helping with any of these positions, please contact Mr. Ruhlman at extension 208.

### **Basketball Season Passes Available!**

Have you considered coming to one of Grace's high school basketball games? Bring

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the whole family and have an exciting time cheering on the boys' and girls' teams! Admission to junior high games is free. High school games cost \$5 for adults, \$3 for senior citizens and \$2 for 7th-12th grade students without an ASB card. Students from Grace Academy in grades 1-6 without an ASB card are \$1 (non Grace 1st-6th grade students cost \$2), and children under 6 years old are free. You can purchase a family season pass at the gate for \$55. A season pass for an individual is \$30. Concessions are open for high school home games.

## 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 on Tuesdays before or after school in the conference room. You can buy SCRIP gift cards for Buffalo Wild Wings, Best Buy, Panera Bread, Home Depot, Macy's, Bath and Body Works, Old Navy, and many more. Tuck one in a card and me someone's day! For more information, call Terri at 659-8517, ext. 207. What's easier than shopping online? Get the enrollment code from Terri, then go to [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com)

## Yearbook Advertising

Here is a great chance to encourage your Grace Academy student. The yearbook class is selling ad space to parents that will include whatever photograph you would like and a brief message to your child. If you prefer, Mrs. Dabrowski (yearbook advisor and photographer) will take a picture of your student and you would be able to keep that file. All ads are in full color. Pick up an ad form in the office and return it to Mrs. Dabrowski's box with your payment.

Prices are: 1/8 page \$75, 1/4 page \$125, 1/2 page \$250, and full page is \$500. Advertisement space is limited so get your order in today! The deadline is December 2, 2019. You may email Mrs. Dabrowski at [jdabrowski@graceacademy.net](mailto:jdabrowski@graceacademy.net) for any questions or to place your order.

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