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Proud of Our Eaglebots!

**Pictured (L-R): Jasmine, Isaac, Amber, James & Caitlin**

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## The Principal Observes

### What's True About Christmas

2,000 years ago there was a young man growing up near the Sea of Galilee in Israel. This is the one whom we honor at Christmas as the babe in the manger. Until he was 30 years old he lived in obscurity, seeming to be no different than any other child. The fantastic events (Matthew 1:18-2:23; Luke 1:5-2:38) that surrounded his birth were followed first by exile from Israel and then a return to the land of his birth. From then until he started his public ministry, we know almost nothing about the life of Christ. History records lots of fanciful tales from this period of his life, but these cannot be trusted like the Bible.

One of the reasons that we have such faith in the Bible is because it is accurate in every point that we can verify, which gives us confidence in those points we can't. The Old Testament book by the prophet Isaiah, written nearly 800 years before Christ, accurately and clearly predicted numerous specific aspects of Christ's life. For example, Isaiah 7:14 says, "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." I'd call that specific! This verse from the Old Testament directly connects with the New Testament passage found in Matthew 1:23. Isaiah also predicted which family and branch of the family Jesus would be part of in 11:1, "There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit." There are hundreds of such prophecies in the Old Testament that clearly and specifically predict events in Christ's life.

Isaiah 53 not only tells us that the Messiah would be a child (53:2), but it also gives us specific details regarding how he would be treated by his countrymen; that is, he was despised, not esteemed, stricken, pierced, scourged, oppressed, afflicted, and judged. It also tells us Jesus paid the penalty for our sin when Isaiah wrote, "and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all." (53:6) Passages like this should give us pause because if it made accurate predictions regarding historical events, then it is surely spiritually correct. Isaiah 53 is so historically accurate that even those who don't believe the Bible as the inspired Word of God are stumped. They fall silent when they consider the remarkable precision of the description of the treatment of Christ written so many years before it happened.

Let this be a reminder to be confident in the Word of God. Many Christmas traditions have no biblical basis, but you can go to the Bible to discover which ones are factually true.

### Calendar

**Green: Elementary Events**

**Red: Secondary Events**

**Blue: All Other Events**

Lost & Found, **December 18-20**, [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, 2020**

Community Transit, Grades 1, 3, 5, **January 7**

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

## Eaglebots Soar Scoring Big

Take a moment to congratulate our Grace Academy Eaglebots! On Saturday, December 7, they competed in a FIRST Lego League district qualifiers event. Their perseverance through multiple challenges during the season equipped them to make quick programming adjustments after learning some new rules the morning of the competition. As a result, the team won the Innovative Solution trophy, scored fourth place in the Robot Game competition, and placed sixth among the 23 teams competing.

This year's fabulous five team members included Amber Nearing, Caitlin Langford, Isaac Zyskowski, James Abrenilla, and Jasmine Bajaj. Their hard work qualified them to advance and compete in the regional semi-finals competition next month. Let's keep them in our prayers.

## 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)

## 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. One such person is **Miranda Newport**.

Miranda Newport has been a great help this year. She has assisted in many different ways throughout the year. She comes in each Wednesday morning to check in students' homework and help with Bible verse tests. She has been very gracious and willing to accommodate whatever is needed during this time. She has also assisted

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in planning class parties. Her input into routines and parent communications has been extremely helpful. Thank you for all your time and helping the class to run smoothly in so many areas!

### 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.

### Early Deposit Due December 31 for HS Snow Retreat

The annual high school snow retreat will be January 26-29. 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. All payments and registration is to be completed on [FamilyID](#). Registration is open.

### Christmas Holiday Office Hours

The office will be closed from December 21 through January 5. School resumes on Monday, January 6, 2020.

### 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](http://www.graceacademy.net). Click on the [Donate](#) button to enter our secure giving site.

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