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**So excited to see Fall sports begin! Go Eagles!
Pictured in foreground: Zia Fackenthall**

The Principal Observes

Observations About Student Pick Up

School has been underway for a few weeks now and we have all quickly settled into the usual school routines. One of these routines is dropping students off in the morning and picking them up in the afternoon.

The morning drop off is going fairly well. Parents are being courteous to other drivers and not going too fast. One thing that could be improved at the elementary building is that parents could pull further down the hill to let their children out if there is space to do so.

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The afternoon dismissal has improved dramatically from the first day because people have changed their habits and we have adjusted our practices. What makes dismissal difficult is that everyone arrives at the same time, or nearly so. Since it takes six minutes to get to the pick-up spot once a car moves from the street into the parking lot, this is the minimum time it should take. However, some people arrive early and they expect to wait longer.

The long line out on the street is what I would like to fix. One way to do this is for people to delay their arrival by a few minutes. All the students are picked up by 3:15 p.m., so it does not matter when you get in line as long as you are at the school before that time. Arriving at 2:45 p.m. will require waiting longer than arriving at 3:05 p.m. simply because there are more people waiting at 2:45 p.m. I encourage you to consider whether arriving a few minutes later would work for your family.

Another thing that people can do to shorten the line is to pull closer to the car in front than is comfortable in a normal situation. Obviously, I am not encouraging people to be unsafe, but if you have a full car length in front of you while sitting in the pick up line, it is probably more than you need.

School is off to a great start with lots of learning taking place. A couple of other items to note:

- The new gym floor is scheduled to be finished in October so we can move P.E classes back there.
- The first round of MAP testing is underway so the teachers will be able to adjust instruction to help meet individual student needs.

Events Calendar

The 2021-22 Events Calendar is available on the Grace Academy website. You may access the calendar at: http://www.graceacademy.net/news_events/calendar

Streamline the Elementary Dismissal Process

To streamline the elementary dismissal process, please help us out.

1. Pull up close to the car in front of you.
2. Please be sure your number can be clearly seen as you pass the front of the administration building.
3. Consider spacing out your arrival time. Dismissal runs over a 15-minute period from 2:55-3:10 so you can come early so you get out sooner or come later and experience a shorter line.
4. If you do decide to park, please show your number to the front of the administration building (office porch) so we can call your child(ren) out of their classroom. Then, **wait by the flagpole** where your child can see you when they come out.

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Prepare for Rain

Our recess supervisors have asked that parents send their child(ren) to school with a lightweight jacket or raincoat to wear at recess and PE on rainy days.

College/Career Planning Night

Help! How do I plan for college or my future career? We have set aside a special night, October 12 at 7 p.m., for our freshmen and sophomore students and their parents to give information on how to plan for life after high school. The evening takes place in room E-21 and primarily applies to high school students, but all are welcome. We will share information on colleges, scholarships, careers, etc.

Teacher Professional Development

Remember there is no school Friday, October 15, while our teachers receive professional training. This is a powerful time for our teachers to be recharged and equipped to give your students the best education at Grace Academy!

Grace Cafe Online Ordering

We encourage parents to order online for convenience and savings.

The online meal cost is \$5.10
Lunch Ticket 20 pack is \$5.30 per lunch = \$106
Cookie Ticket 20 pack is \$1.85 per cookie = \$37

Physical lunch and cookie tickets are sold in the office in **packs of 20** only (due to physical distancing needs avoiding crowds in the office). All other items, including beverages and extra entrees, must be purchased online.

ParentsWeb Online Ordering Directions:

- After logging into ParentsWeb, expand the "Student" drop-down choices.
- Click on Lunch. You can then explore the menu options.
- When you are ready to order, click on "Create Web Order" at the top left.
- Scroll to the date you wish to order and add quantity to the menu item.
 - Important: Lunch orders are created one student at a time, not per family. The quantity will be for the highlighted student, so orders for each sibling should be made separately.
- Click "Order Items" at the very bottom of the page.
- The online payment will be prompted. Complete as instructed and don't forget to click "Pay".
- **Wait for email confirmation of your order. If there is no confirmation, you have not completed the process and your student will not have a lunch ordered.**

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Day again this year. The reason is we want to keep our grandparents safe. This is a huge disappointment because we love having grandparents on our campus see all their grandchildren experience in a school day. We look forward to the day when we can resume this great event. We will still be mailing each of the grandparents a letter from their grandchild/children so please make sure those addresses are on file in your RenWeb family account. Thank you for understanding as we deal with yet another unusual year.

Medication at School

In compliance with Washington state laws, all medications, prescription or over-the-counter, must be checked in at the office along with the appropriate signed form.

Because of Washington state laws, Grace Academy's policy states "Medication must be administered by trained school personnel only." The only exception to this is for students with asthma who must carry inhalers with them. Parents must indicate this on the medication authorization form.

Prescription medications as well as over-the-counter medications, such as Tylenol and cough drops, require the following:

- appropriate form (available in the office) completed by the parent and the doctor.
- medicine in its original container with student name clearly marked.

Parents, please fill out the over-the-counter form listing anything other than a Band-Aid and soap and water you want the school to use or administer. Thank you for helping us comply with state law.

Background Check for Volunteers On Campus

A Washington State Patrol background check must be on file in the office for those who wish to volunteer on campus or be a chaperone on a field trip. All volunteers must also be vaccinated for Covid-19 in order to be in campus classrooms.

We would like to encourage parents to volunteer in the classroom. If you are interested in being involved, please contact your child's teacher to find out about their needs and Covid-19 limitations. For more information, see page 25 in the Student Handbook.

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