



KNIGHTLY NEWS

Middle School
December 2011

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Dual Accreditation	1
Christmas Gifts	1
Jingle Jog	2
Patriot's Pen	3
Holiday Office Hours	3
Food Drive Results	3

Moving Towards Dual Accreditation

**By Adam Rasmussen,
Middle School Principal**

On November 30 Gilbert Christian Schools took another important step towards excellence in Christian education when Jerry Bowen, director for the ACSI Rocky Mountain Region visited our campus, reviewed our materials, and interviewed key personnel. At this stage Mr. Bowen will take his findings to the commission for a final vote. I will wait until things are official to share his findings in detail but it is fair to say that things look positive for our accreditation with ACSI. (More details to follow in a future newsletter...)

Gilbert Christian Schools has been accredited with



Dual enrollment has many benefits for our school

North Central Accreditation since 2005. We will keep our accreditation current with NCA in addition to our ACSI credentials. Here is some information about ACSI. *From the ACSI website:*

“The Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) is a

Christian educational organization. Since 1978, ACSI has advanced excellence in Christian schools by enhancing the professional and personal development of Christian educators and providing support functions for Christian schools.

Through a host of services, including teacher and administrator certification, school accreditation, legal/legislative help, and curriculum publishing, the association touches the lives of more than 3.9 million students worldwide. Along with a headquarters facility, ACSI has 27 regional offices in North America and around the globe. Nearly 23,000 schools from more than 100 countries are members.”

Christmas Gifts for Teachers & Support Staff

The families of Gilbert Christian Schools have generous and cheerful hearts. Historically there has been a huge outpouring of love towards teachers and support staff during the

Holidays. In the past, envelopes were provided outside the school office for parents who felt led to give blessings to the teachers and support staff. This year however, we ask you, if so inclined

to give your Christmas blessings to individuals- whatever form that may take. This could include but is not limited to encouraging cards, emails, Christmas treats, or more tangible gifts. Merry Christmas!

Jingle Jog

By **Natasha Desmarchais**

Runners take your mark and mark your calendars...

Gilbert Christian PK-8 Campus is proud to announce our first annual "Jingle Bell Jog" on December 16th, 2011!

In the spirit of promoting health, fun and fitness, we would like to invite parents and family to join us in this non-competitive family fun run (walk/jog) the half-day before Christmas break.

Grade levels will start their assigned route at various times, so you may even have the opportunity to jog along with more than one child... start training now.

After a grade level warm-up, Middle School will start their 2-mile route at 8:10, grades 4-5 will start their 1-mile route at 8:20, grades 2-3 at 8:30, first grade at 8:40 and PreK and K will start their $\frac{3}{4}$ mile route at 8:50.

Students are encouraged to wear **festive hats, festive hair, jingle bells, school spirit shirts or red/green GCS school shirts on top and appropriate length athletic shorts or sweat pants on bottom are fine (please NO spandex, pajamas or short shorts).**

We will need parents, who are unable to run/walk/jog, but would still like to help, act as "Post Parents" to man the route to keep our children safe en route! We would also like to reward them with a healthy snack and are looking for parents that would like to contribute orange slices. If you can help us out please sign up at: [link to follow](#)

Gratefully,

Natasha Desmarchais
Deborah Hightower

The Mission of GCS Middle School

"To transform students into effective communicators, critical thinkers, and servant leaders who will impact the world for the glory of Jesus Christ."



GCS Middle School
1424 S. Promenade Lane
Gilbert, AZ 85296

Phone 480-279-1366
Fax 480-279-5433
E-mail
office@gilbertchristianschools.org

Champions for Christ



We're on the Web!

www.gilbertchristianschools.org

Patriot's Pen

By Dorene McLaughlin

Congratulations, Patriot's Pen Winners!

The VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) holds an annual contest called "The Patriot's Pen" which allows students to express their patriotism through writing. The topic this year was "Are You Proud of Your Country?" Several middle school students responded with a patriotic "Yes!" and wrote winning essays to prove it. We had five students take the top five places at the local level. The winners (all from 8th grade) include:

First place:

Raquel Valliere

Second place:

Kari Erickson

Third Place:

Emmalee Barnes

Fourth Place:

Micah Mason

Fifth Place:

Savannah Flora

The winners received invitations to a banquet in their honor on November 17th at the VFW post in Apache Junction where they received recognition for their writing. Next month the district judges will decide who the district winner is from the

area VFW posts. Those winners move on to state and potentially national competitions!

When you see these girls, make sure you tell them congratulations on a job well done. If asked if we are proud of our GCS writers, we can respond with an enthusiastic "Yes!" ourselves. Keep up the good work!



Holiday Office Hours

The Holiday Office Hours for the K8 campus are:

Friday, December 16
8:00-12:00

Monday, December 19-
Friday, December 30
Office Closed

Monday, January 2
Normal Office Hours

School resumes
January 3, 2012

Food Drive

Thank you to all who contributed to our annual food drive at Gilbert Christian Schools. We were able to help several needy families in the Valley. Here are the results:

Over 16,000 food items

1st Place School Wide- 7th
Grade 2026 items

2nd Place School Wide- 6th
Grade 1742 items