



KNIGHTLY NEWS

FEBRUARY 2012

ELEMENTARY VOLUME 07

Apply your heart to instruction and your ears to words of knowledge. Proverbs 23:12

UPCOMING ELEMENTARY EVENTS

February 2

5th grade shadow day

February 6

Re-enrollment begins

February 10

Harkins Summer Movie
Order Forms
Go home today

February 16

Dinner begins at 5:30/
Show at 6:30
Picnic in the Park/
Talent Show

February 17

Starts at 8 am/ half day
Bring Parent to School
Day

February 20

No School
Presidents' Day

February 23

7pm in the cafeteria
Evening Future Family
Meeting

February 29

Grandma's Cookies

March 1 & 2

Fit and Fun Days

Save the Date:

April 21
Daddy/Daughter
Dance

RE-ENROLL IN GILBERT CHRISTIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

By Ann Flag, Elementary School Principal

An important time of the Gilbert Christian Schools calendar is upon us – re-enrollment time. Our valued, current families are given the opportunity to re-enroll beginning February 6, 2012, before we open up the class spaces to new families on February 14, 2012. Beginning February 6, families are invited to visit the campus and turn in their reenrollment package. The specific location and times for face-to-face enrollment is explained in the enrollment packet that went home with your youngest GCS child on January 31st. Once this process is complete, you can trust that your child's enrollment is secure. I value each family and each child here at Giblet Christian Schools. I hope all will return to enjoy the grace God freely provides in our wonderful environment, rigorous curriculum, and talented teachers. The following "Frequently Asked Question" format may be helpful to elementary parents:

Q. If I do not re-enroll in February, what happens to my child's classroom spot?

A. Once we open enrollment to the general public, we cannot guarantee your child a spot in the classroom. Please take advantage of our current family only days and reserve a seat in the classroom for your child.

Q. Will I be able to select my child's classroom teacher for next year?

A. You may request a classroom teacher, but teacher requests are done in May, not at the time of reenrollment. Mrs. Flag prayerfully weighs each request but also considers the make-up of each class; therefore, she is unable to grant every request. Requests from all families are important, but requests are processed according to seniority at GCS. Many do not request a teacher, but allow Mrs. Flag and the teachers to place their child in a classroom we believe will be best.

Continued on the next page...

CONCERTS & COMMITMENT

By Bruce Wilkinson

The Gilbert Christian Strings Programs will be presenting three concerts this spring: the first will feature grades 4 & 5 string players along with Julie Roman's General Music students, and will take place on **Monday, April 9** at 6:30 p.m. As I mentioned in my recent email, the venue has not yet been determined. The second performance opportunity takes place on **Monday, April 30** in the west campus gym, and will feature the grades 1-3 (with Mrs. Crawford's Kindergarten students of course!) strings students. That concert will also begin at 6:30 p.m. The final concert will



Got Decal?

Thanks to all who applied the GCS decal to their vehicle! No decal? Pick yours up in the front office today.

Continued on the next page...

Re-Enroll... (continued)

Q. When are elementary classroom assignments posted?

A. Class lists are posted during the last week of school.

Q. Will the elementary school grade level configuration be the same next year?

A. Yes, we will have 2 half-day pre-k classes, 2 all-day and 2 half-day kindergarten classes, 3 first grade classes, and 2/3 and 4/5 combination classes. Sixth grade is considered middle school. A K/1 combo class will probably not be available next year due to the projected number of first graders.

Q. When may children begin kindergarten and pre-kindergarten at GCS?

A. Pre-kindergarten children must be 4 years old by September 1st. Children should be 5 by September 1st to enter kindergarten. Early entry into kindergarten is considered if the child turns 5 before October 1st, but special permission from Mrs. Flagg and a kindergarten evaluator is required. Early entry into pre-kindergarten is considered if the child turns 4 before October 1st, but special permission from Mrs. Flagg and a pre-kindergarten evaluator is required.

Q. Will the class size be the same next year?

A. Yes, all classes will remain at 18 or less. Pre-K and kindergarten classes have aides if more than 12 students are enrolled.

Q. When is the first day of school?

A. August 8, 2012 with Pie and Praise on August 6th. Check our website for the full calendar.

Highlights of January

January was a month of praise to our great God. We celebrated *School Choice Week* on Friday, January 20th by lifting prayer and



praise to God and releasing hundreds of biodegradable balloons. Our thanks went to God, for allowing us to live in a country that permits

Christian schools and a state that sponsors STO credit towards tuition. Next, we went totally Bananazs for Jesus in a special Grandma's Cookies featuring Doug and Linda Tidwell singing praises and sharing the Gospel message. Sponsored by World Vision, they helped over 35 GCS families who indicated an interest to select a boy or girl to sponsor.

Praise the Lord!



Concerts... (continued)

take place a week later on **Monday, May 7** at 7:00 p.m., venue to be determined. The students featured will be those in grades 6-8 and high school.

I would like to stress the importance of these performances to the students' development as musicians – all the work that we do during the first part of each semester is geared toward preparing them to perform for YOU! The process is also extremely important, but I consider the concerts to be the REWARD for all the students' hard work throughout the year. Learning to perform in front of an audience at a young age is, I believe, vital to preparing to enter the "real world" of college and work. It is also the joyous occasion of giving glory to God through music! It is with this in mind that I now put in writing a policy I've always had – if a student misses a concert without obtaining prior permission from me, their semester grade will drop by one letter. Obviously, last minute emergencies such

Take Mom or Dad to School Day Save the Date!

For about 10 years our country has set aside a day when moms and dads are encouraged to bring their sons and daughters to work. The *next Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work® Day* program will be celebrated April 26, 2012. If your workplace sponsors the event, we would encourage you to take advantage of this informative and relationship building time. At Gilbert Christian Elementary school, we are flipping this idea and sponsoring our second annual *Take Mom OR Dad to School Day*. Our special event will occur on Friday, February 17 from 8:00 – 11:30. On that day each child will be encouraged to bring one parent to school. Parent and child will sit side-by-side in the classroom through a shortened version of a typical school day. If you have more than one elementary child, you may wish to split the day or send an adult with each student. For those parents who may not be able to attend, a grandparent, guardian or other caring adult friend may be invited. We're sorry, but we only have room in the classrooms for one parent to attend at a time. Parents are welcome to split the day if they prefer. Not only will this day make your child feel special – it will help parents to look at the school day with fresh eyes. A special parent "class" about Spalding spelling and reading will be taught by Mrs. Flagg. Mr. Rasmussen will be teaching a class titled "How to Get the Most out of Middle School" for parents of 5th graders. Please save the date for now, more information and an opportunity to sign up for this special event will be coming soon.



BOYS BASKETBALL ON A ROLL!!!

The 5th/6th grade boys' basketball teams are off to a good start this season. Both teams have a record of 2-1. Our Green team has wins over our Gold team (17-12) and Bethany Christian School (21-13) with the only loss to TCA White (28-19) while our Gold team defeated TCA Green (37-4) and Bios Christian Academy (27-14) and lost to our Green team.

Both teams travel to Tri-City Christian Academy on Wed. 2/1 with GCS Green facing TCA Green at 4:00 and GCS Gold squaring off against TCA White at 4:45. On Wed. 2/8 and Wed. 2/15 both GCS teams will be playing their final regular season games at home, so please come out and support our teams! Game times are 4:00 and 4:45 on both dates.



Our second semester family movie night event was fun for all. The meatball dinner made by GCS mom Angela Kooreman was delicious. The BIG screen donated by the Gregston family was a neat-o way to watch the movie with GCS friends and family. A big "thank you" goes to Shelly Dorais for coordinating the event. We were able to make over \$500 through the concession and dinner sales to put towards our end of the year event – Water Day! Now that's a big meatball.

MATH OLYMPICS

Congratulations to the following Elementary students who qualified for the ACSI Math Olympics by finishing the Math-by-Mail contest in 1st through 4th Place or in the top 25% across the region:

Grade 5 Computation: **Dante Bui** - qualifier

Grade 5 Reasoning: **Gage Galloway** - 2nd Place

BJ Grant - qualifier

There were 59 schools and 1,224 students from across the Rocky Mountain region who competed in the Math-by-Mail contest, so this is quite an accomplishment for these students. The regional Math Olympics will take place on Friday, March 9 at Grace Community Christian School in Tempe. Good luck to all of our exceptional students!

Spelling Bee

Great job to all of our Elementary students who participated in the ACSI District Spelling Bee which took place on Friday, January 13 at Paradise Valley Christian Preparatory School, and congratulations to the following students who placed in the top 10 in their grade level (students are listed in place order):

Chloe Salow (2nd grade) - 4th place

Alexis Sadler (1st grade) - 6th place

Sage Villone (2nd grade) - 6th place

Paige Cefaratti (3rd grade) - 7th place

Katie Renaud (4th grade) - 8th place

Micah Dressel (1st grade) - 10th place

Add, Subtract, Multiply & Divide



The following students passed the Math Blasters test this month. Math Blasters is a timed test given monthly to 1st-6th grade students. The test is designed to measure accuracy and instant recall of grade-level appropriate mathematics facts. By the time a child is in the upper elementary grades, a Math Blasters Test contains addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts. Once a child has passed the test at his grade level, he may try to pass the test at the next grade level. Children win a Math Blasters t-shirt or a wrist band when they pass a test. Practicing math facts at home for 10 minutes a day can help your child excel in fast recall of basic math facts. Congratulations to all the students listed below.

1ST GRADE TEST

Sofia Rhorer
Cohen Gregston
Nolan Crawford
Hayden Weinland

2ND GRADE TEST

Keegan Heivilin
Grace Wong

3RD GRADE TEST

Jace Feely

4TH GRADE TEST

Tobin Hall
Hailey Murray
Paige Cefaratti

5TH GRADE TEST

Mason Sutherland
Rylee Bishop
Trey Donaldson
Grace Charvat
Jakob Jandura
Arianna Palacio
Jacob Jones
MaKenna Brooks
Jordan Stratman

6TH GRADE TEST

Kaity Hakes
Dante Bui
Paul Kim
Nic Cruz
Andrew Kooreman