



Amazing Grace



Grace Christian Academy

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Principal's Column



By Carlo Giannotta

Welcome Spring! As always, this busy time of the year is full of many events and activities at our school.

First, we offer congratulations to our basketball team. This group of players ended the season with a Conference Record of 5 wins, 2 losses, after being defeated by Ashburn in the championship game. Good job team!

Second, we need to offer congratulations to the students in grades Five through Eight who participated in the Speech Contest during Lutheran School's Week. Our Fifth and Sixth grade winners were Gerardo Morales and Raul Andrade, respectively. Erika Maldonado won the Seventh grade category and Jerry Posadas finished first for Eighth grade. The overall winner for the competition was Eduardo Cervantes. Thanks also to Sharon Riordan and Suzanne Placzek from Grace Lutheran Church, Western Springs who served as two of our judges for this event.

Third, as mentioned above, we recently celebrated Lutheran School's week here at Grace. During this week we offer 1/2 price

registration in an effort to encourage our parents to plan on Grace for next year. This year we held a contest for the students to encourage early registration. The class with the highest percentage of students registering for next year would win a free dress day AND a free lunch at our local McDonalds. Congratulations to Mr. Hansa's Seventh grade students. They had the highest percentage of students pre-register for next year with a rate of 100%.

Besides the Speech Contest, another highlight of this year's Lutheran School's Week was the Scholastic Book Fair. This yearly event allows parents and students to purchase high quality books at very reasonable prices. Profits are then used to purchase new books for each classroom's library as well as for the school's main library. We are very proud to report that we sold over \$1400 in books and were able to purchase over \$800 in new items for the school. Every student that purchased a book received a chance in the school raffle contest. The raffle winner would get to throw a whipped cream pie at Ms. Strege. Jerry Posadas won this event. You can see the results below!



Date Change for Grace Banquet and Auction

After much debate and consideration, it was decided that the banquet and auction scheduled for Sunday, April 10 would be re-scheduled for **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23.**

There were many factors influencing this change including the low rate of reservations returned to date, the fact that our banquet date is nearly three weeks earlier than past events, and the amount of work required to hold a live auction versus a silent event. The determining factor, however, was our desire to **do it right.** Planning a live auction requires more planning and time than we felt we had available for the preparation of an event in April. We want our auction and banquet to be an exciting, fun and inspiring event— and that means changing the date.

Some items that we received for our April event will expire before the October event—most notably Sox tickets and a few other items. We have decided to put these items up for sale on-line, beginning on May 1. Look on the Grace website on that date for a link to the items on sale on Ebay. The Grace website can be found at www.graceonkarlov.org

We hope you will join us in October for a spectacular **LIVE AUCTION AND BANQUET!**

If you would like to be a part of the banquet or auction committees, please contact the school for more information.

Grace Christian Academy



God Reaches All Children Everyday...at GRACE!



Battle of the Praise Bands II

Although the weather was gray and rainy, spirits were high at the most recent Battle of the Praise Bands II event, where four local praise teams “competed” for the title of “Best Praise Band” (and a \$100 gift certificate).

The afternoon began with great music by the St. Paul Praise Team of Melrose Park, who entertained everyone with the most rocking version of “This Little Gospel Light of Mine” that many had ever heard.

“Praise and Promise” from Concordia Lutheran Church, Berwyn was the next group to play, entertaining everyone with their harmonious sound during songs like “You Are Holy” and “Awesome God”.

After a short presentation about Grace and its ministry, “Under New Management” from St. John’s Lutheran Church, Lombard was the next to play, inspiring the crowd with their music. This group was the crowd favorite, as they were the only band asked to play an encore.

“Altar Ego” from Word of Life, Naperville rounded out the competitive portion of the night, a fresh combination of classic praise songs and Christian music set to popular rock songs such as “Boulevard of Both Extremes” and “I’m a Receiver”.

While the ballots were being counted, the multi-denominational group “Chaos” took the stage. After a few solo songs, they were joined by Grace students who sang along with the band. The highlight, however, was the final song of the night which featured the Grace students singing “Lord I Lift Your Name on High” with members from *all* the bands participating.

Although “Praise and Promise” took home the first place honors, the real winner of the night was our school as just over \$1100 was raised for our school’s scholarship program!

Grace would like to thank the following people for their help: Dan Topping, Ken Boyes, Jim Skala, Amanda Ziegler, Jeff Christensen, Adam Stechmiller, Duane Bjorklund, Kim Christensen, Diane Perrin, Carlo Giannotta and Julia Bjorklund. Special thanks to John Stigler for his expertise in running the sound board and to Jim Urban for preparing the space. Thanks also to Modern Music for the equipment rental and to Sam Ash Music for the generous donation of gift certificates to all of the competing bands.

Look for another praise band event in 2012!



The grand finale, featuring Grace Students and members of ALL the bands playing and singing together!

Did you know that....

Grace’s goal for General Mills Box tops is 1,000 labels?

We currently have 695 labels collected for the 2010-2011 school year!



Smiling for the camera on a recent field trip.

Grace Practices the 3 “R’s”

Not so long ago, when someone was referring to the “3 R’s” they meant Reading, wRiting and aRithmetic. As our world has become increasingly concerned with the environment and “going green”, more often than not the 3 R’s now refer to reducing, reusing and recycling. While we are always working on ways to improve our students’ reading, writing and arithmetic skills, over the last several years, we’ve adopted several practices to help us improve these other “r’s” as well.

For many years, Grace has tried to reduce the amount of resources that it uses. Thermostats are lowered at night and lights are turned off. When the Grace bathrooms were renovated a few years ago, water faucets that automatically shut off were installed.

When it comes to reusing, most teachers are experts at finding ways to re-purpose items. Most every student has used old paintbrushes for spreading glue or turned tin cans into pencil holders. Ms. Brown, the First and Second grade teacher created the perfect seating area for her students using abandoned milk crates for benches and pretty pillows as the cushions.

It is in the area of recycling that Grace has really worked hard to improve. Empty juice pouches and potato chip bags are collected for recycling—a big change from just a few years ago when all of these items went into landfill. Students in the upper grades sort their garbage, removing liquid items from the trash and trying hard to reduce the amount of paper thrown away. Recycling at Grace also extends to bigger items—like computers.

Grace has been enrolled in the Federal government’s “Computers For Learning” (CFL) program since May 2007. This program allows government agencies to donate excess and surplus computer equipment directly to schools and other non-profits at no cost to the

recipient. Almost all of the student computers at Grace were obtained through this program.

Recently Grace received 15 CFL computers and LCD monitors all of which had their hard drives and memory removed. Purchasing new hard drives and memory for these machines would have been very expensive and outside of our school's meager technology budget.

Thankfully for Grace, there are others who believe in the "3 R's"!

Using the Internet and the popular classified site "Craigslist" our school made a connection with Matt of The Recycling Team. This company specializes in the reuse, recovery, and recycling of electronics in a way that is safe for the environment and secure from information thieves. Matt arranged for a donation of hard drives and memory for all of the computers, an estimated value of over \$400!

This has been the proverbial "win-win" situation for Grace. Not only did we obtain the hardware needed for the new computers, but we now have a place to dispose of our old electronic equipment! The Recycling Team can be reached toll free at 866-232-9242, or find them on the web at www.therecyclingteam.com.



Box Tops Deadline Approaches!

Grace would like to remind you that its time to turn in your General Mills Box Tops and your Campbell Soup labels! We all shop for groceries—and it is so easy to turn these items into extra money for our school! While people often save labels and box tops until they have "enough"- box tops *do expire*. Our next mailing of box tops will be in May, so get your box tops to us by May 1. Additional information about eligible General Mills products can be found at www.boxtops4education.com. This website runs monthly sweepstakes, has tips on where and how to find bonus box tops and printable coupons to make purchasing eligible products easier on your wallet!

If you are looking for information about Campbell's products go to www.labelsforeducation.com. While Campbell's labels do not expire, their list of eligible products is very extensive, including everything from Post Cereals to Pepperidge Farm, Prego, Wolfgang Puck and Bic products! Campbell's is also running a special promotion—labels submitted for redemption before May 15 earn one bonus point per UPC received!

Hurry and send in your box tops and labels today!

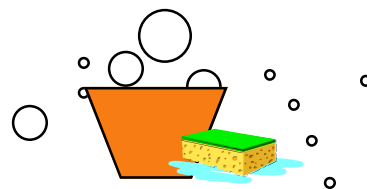
Car Wash Coming Soon!

Calling all dirty cars! It's once again time for the Seventh and Eighth grade class Car Wash at Grace Lutheran Church, Western Springs!

Unlike most car washes, our car wash is a free-will offering event. The students (under supervision by teachers and parents) hand wash and dry your car, relying on your generosity to earn funds for their upcoming class trip to historic Atlanta, GA.

Atlanta is famous for many things, including the birthplace of Martin Luther King, Jr. While in Atlanta, the students will learn more about the Civil Rights movement, take a tour at the World of Coca-Cola and ride to the top of Stone Mountain.

This year's car wash will be on Saturday, May 7 from 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. in the parking lot of Grace Lutheran Church. The church is located at 4101 S. Wolf Road Western Springs just two blocks South of Ogden Avenue.



GRACE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY HONOR ROLL GRADES 1 -8 SECOND QUARTER 2010-2011

High Honors (3.75 - 4.0 GPA)

Emily Giannotta * Jennifer Bjorklund * Alexandra Plascencia * Raul Andrade *
Jocelyn Cruz * Vicky Espinoza * Victoria Nieves * Berenice Espinoza * Daniela Plascencia

Honors (3.25—3.74 GPA)

Noelia Maldonado * Marlen Maldonado* Grace Aragon *Jovanny Candelas *
Erika Maldonado * Enrique Marrero * Sophia Maldonado * Eduardo Cervantes
Erika Sanchez * Madelyn Ortiz

Honorable Mention (3.00—3.24 GPA)

Juan Dieguez * Teresa Ochoa * Camilli Camargo * Julio Padilla
Aaliyah Chavez * Leslie Ortega

Congratulations!

Grace would like to congratulate Mr. Joseph Hansa and Mr. Carlo Giannotta for recently receiving their Master's Degrees. Both men graduated from Concordia University, Chicago this past December.

Mr. Hansa, our Seventh and Eighth grade teacher received his degree in Curriculum Instruction. Mr. Carlo Giannotta, our principal, received his degree in Educational Administration.

We are very proud of these two and their accomplishments as both completed their rigorous programs while still working full-time for our school!



Congratulations Mr. Giannotta and Mr. Hansa!

George's Gym Fundraiser a Success!

This past January, George's Gym hosted a "Field Trip Fundraiser" for Grace Christian Academy in the Sidecar at FitzGerald's in Berwyn. This adult-only event featured live amateur music and a raffle for one-of-a-kind Art items created and donated for this event.

The goal of the event was to raise enough money for two different field trips. The first trip for students in grades Pre K—Fourth for the Chicago Children's Museum on Navy Pier, and the second for students in grades Fifth—Eighth to attend a performance at Medieval Times in Schaumburg.

Thanks to Mr. Max, Miss Rachel, Mr. George and all the Grace supporters who made this field trip possible!

Matching Challenge Met!

In December, we challenged our supporters to give \$10,000 to Grace before January 31 to fulfill the requirements of a matching grant. We are very pleased to report that our generous donors gave over \$14,000 to this challenge, greatly exceeding expectations. Grace would like to thank everyone that contributed. Your gifts helped us to meet our goal and they will be used to help all the students in our scholarship program!



Learning about the properties of water at the Chicago Children's Museum.



Pumpkin farm field trip



Lutheran School's Week -Dress -up Day



Lutheran School's Week -Crazy Hair Day