



Grace Notes

September 2011

www.geds.net

Check the interactive calendar for the most current information.

A Look Ahead

Sept. 1 4:00pm **Volleyball Game** at Pinewood

Parent/Faculty Night

6:00pm-6:45pm 4th through 6th Grade

6:45pm-7:30pm 7th through 8th Grade

Sept. 2 **Seventh Grade Kanuga Money Due**
Fast Food Friday (Bojangles) Begins

Sept. 5 **Labor Day Student/Teacher Holiday**
No Extended Day

Sept. 7 **Chapel**
8:50am Preschool and Kindergarten
9:25am Elementary and Middle School
Holy Eucharist

Sept. 8 5:30pm **Volleyball Game** at Christian Heritage

Sept. 12 8:40am **Flag Ceremony**
Boosterthon Fun Run
9:15am PreK3 through 5th Grade
10:15am 6th through 8th Grade

3:30pm **Soccer Game** against Cedar Hills Christian Academy (Home)

Sept. 13 5:30pm **Volleyball** game against Seacrest

Sept. 14 **Chapel**
8:50am Preschool and Kindergarten
9:25am Elementary and Middle School

Sept. 15 6:30pm **Safeguarding God's Children Class**
In the sixth grade classroom

Sept. 19 8:40am **Flag Ceremony**

Sept. 20 3:30pm **Soccer** game against Hendricks Day School (Home)

5:30pm **Volleyball** game at Parsons

Sept. 21 9:00am **Combined Chapel Service**
Interim Reports go home

Sept. 23 4:30pm **Volleyball** game at Greenwood

Sept. 26-30 Seventh Grade Mountain Trip to **Kanuga**

Sept. 27 11:30am **Early Dismissal**
Extended Day Open

Sept. 28 **Chapel**
8:50am Preschool and Kindergarten
9:25am Elementary and Middle School



Click the Boosterthon link on our website to learn more about the Fun Run!
www.geds.net

Get Ready for an Epic Adventure with the Boosterthon Fall Fun Run!

Encourage, Play, Invite, Celebrate

Fun Run
Moosehaven Campus
Monday, September 12
9:15am PreK3-5th Grade
10:15am 6th through 8th Grade

Boys and Girls Learn Differently



Grace teachers started the year with a full day in-service training by Amy Morales, a certified trainer from the Gurian Institute. The training included:

- Implications of new research in brain-based gender differences on teaching methods, classroom management, and home/school collaboration
- Best practices related to learning for classrooms, schools, and professionals
- Strategies for application and implementation in individual classrooms



*Photograph by
Laura Evans*

2011-2012 GEDS Faculty and Staff



The Blood Mobile will be in the parking lot at Grace Episcopal Church on September 7th
From 10am-2pm

Consider giving the gift of life by donating blood.

Safeguarding God's Children Classes

In order to chaperone overnight field trips, substitute teach, or drive on regular field trips you must take the Safeguarding God's Children Class and have a Level II background screening every 5 years. Call Dana Whitelaw or Amy Henning, 269-3718, for more information.

Upcoming Class

Thursday, September 15th, 6:30pm in the GEDS sixth grade classroom.



We know it is tempting....but....please don't park in this reserved parking space. It was purchased at the auction by the Wilger family and should be available for them for use throughout the day. Thank you for your understanding.



Many Thanks To

John and Rosie Folger
Owners of Coldstone Creamery
By The Avenues Mall
For donating the ice cream
To the back to school social

Over 250 cups of ice cream were served!

After School Piano Lessons for Children and Adults

GEDS is fortunate to have two excellent instructors for after school piano lessons housed on the Grace Episcopal Church campus. If you are interested in more information please refer to the contacts listed below.

Boril Ivanov
www.bivajazz.com
904-923-3882

Anatoli Khatchatourov
anatoli47@hotmail.com
904-880-8884

Why Choose an Episcopal School

The following information is taken from the website of The National Association of Episcopal Schools...www.naes.org

Episcopal schools are created to be communities that honor, celebrate and worship God as the center of life. They are created to be models of God's love and grace. They are created to serve God in Christ in all persons, regardless of origin, background, ability, or religion. They are created to "strive for justice and peace among all people and [to] respect the dignity of every human being." These principles are the basis on which identity and vocation are to be defined in Episcopal schools.

Why Choose an Independent School

The following information is taken from the website of The National Association of Independent Schools...www.nais.org

High academic standards-Independent schools nurture intellectual curiosity, stimulate personal growth, and encourage critical thinking. A larger percentage of students at independent schools are enrolled in advanced courses than in public, parochial, and other private schools.

Small classes and individual attention-Independent schools have low student-teacher ratios that encourage close connections with students.

Excellent teachers-They usually teach in their area of expertise and are passionate about what they do. With more autonomy within the classroom, teachers are able to develop a full understanding of how each student learns and what interests and motivates each individually.

Greater likelihood of a student completing a bachelor's degree or graduate degree

Education for the whole child -Independent schools nurture not just students' intellectual ability and curiosity but also their personal growth and civic conscience. Opportunities extend well beyond the classroom to athletic competitions, artistic pursuits, and school leadership experiences.

Inclusiveness -Schools maintain diverse and vibrant student communities and welcome and respect each family.

A community of parents who actively participate in their children's education-Independent schools promote regular communication among students, parents, and teachers to ensure everyone is working toward the same goals for the students.

The opportunity to choose a school with a mission-You can select a school whose philosophy, values, and teaching approach is right for your child.

And most importantly...An education that will pay dividends for a lifetime.



IT'S OK TO CRY WHEN YOU SAY GOODBYE

In the next few weeks, if not already, many of you will be sending your youngsters off-to preschool or childcare, to elementary school, and all the way up to college.

You have prepared for this, with lots of talking, maybe some visits, some purchase of new clothes and shiny new school stuff from the required lists.

You have organized the car-pool or bus schedule, you have cleared your schedule for the send-off, and you and the kids are all ready. Or are you? Have you acknowledged to yourself and to your child what is really involved in some of these big transitions in your lives? The parent-child relationship is one of the most complex love relationships we will experience. From the beginning, you and your child have formed a transactional circle, with each of you providing necessities for the other.

In the case of children, we provide the physical care and nurturing, the emotional support, and the introduction to the world.

In the case of parents, children provide a loving relationship, often tender and adoring, such as when sticky-faced toddlers lavish us with kisses or carefully picked bunches of dandelions, or older children make it clear that Mom and Dad are the final authorities in their worlds.

Parents feel deep and unconditional love, pride, satisfaction, and joy when they contemplate their offspring, not to mention exasperation, frustration, and a myriad of other emotions (I told you it was a complex relationship!).

This next step you are preparing for will change that relationship forever. Whether the child will go off to the care of a teacher for a few mornings a week, or to the mysterious all-day world of "big school", or even move into a college dormitory, the expansion of this world will put the two of you in a different place. And how you support the child and give yourself wisdom will determine much of your relationship for the future. You have heard the old saying about giving your children roots and wings. In the earliest years, you concentrated on the roots, I am sure. Your unconditional love and support have helped your children build confidence and succeed in new experiences. Those are the roots, and therefore the essential nature of your relationship will remain.

The hardest part is giving the wings: the chances to fly away from you, soaring in a direction that you will not go and may not even be able to imagine.

Granted, they will be back. As Bill Cosby said, "Human beings are the only creatures on earth that allow their children to come back home!" But they will be back with new thoughts, new experiences, and sometimes new heroes and values.

As one mother of a first grader said to me, through gritted teeth, "It sounds to me like Miss Jones should be nominated for sainthood -SHE does no wrong!" Nobody ever prepares us enough for how much change there is in our lives. So, as you approach this next transition, it's okay to cry when you say goodbye, okay for both of you to be a bit scared and a bit sad, mixed in with the worry and the excitement.

Just make sure to balance your open talk between parent and child with chances for you both to admit sadness without it becoming such a drag on the wings that the child cannot get air-borne when it is time to go.