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# WORDS OF GRACE

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VOLUME 2: NO 5

• *FOR THE STUDENTS BY THE STUDENTS!* •

January 26, 2024

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## Being Intentional

By: Caleb Cox



**Coach Belden led the first community chapel of the year on January 25.** First, the chapel opened with a prayer for Kevin Hunter, our beloved cook, for his heart surgery. All teachers laid hands on him and John Laing prayed over him. Then, we had worship and afterwards Coach Belden entered the stage. He invited all the basketball teams up on stage with him to congratulate them. He especially thanked Coach Ross, the girls coach, Mrs. Sedota, the sports manager, Brianna Bowden and Jackson Wall, the team managers, and Trebor, the motivator for

the teams. He let everyone but his “volentolds” Brianna Bowden, and the JV boys team, exit the stage. Coach B proceeded to talk about New Year's resolutions. His first resolution was to not eat so many Doritos, his second was to grow his hair out but the kids in the audience said no to that, his final resolution was to be intentional in everything he did. His five levels of intention were: “Do, Say, Think, Believe, and Feel.” He asked the audience why we do what we do and the answer was because it’s important to us. He asked everyone to give a thumbs up if they believe God was intentional in what he did. The whole chapel gave a big thumbs up. He asked Thomas Qualls, one of the JV boys players, to read Genesis 1:26-2:3 which says: “Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground. So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.” Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and



all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so. God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.” Coach B asked everyone to give a thumbs up if they believe it’s our responsibility to be intentional, and the audience responded with a thumbs up. Then, he read Matthew 4:19 “**Come, follow me, Jesus said, and I will send you out to fish for people.**” That means that He wants us to lead people to Him. He asked around the crowd what we can do to be more intentional with God. Kids in the audience said, “Pray. Read the

Bible. Believe in Him. Praise the Lord.” Then, Dion Sedota read Matthew 5:19. “In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” The more we plan to grow closer to God, the more we do. We can be the light. Coach Belden told everyone: “Let’s be intentional together!” We can’t always be intentional though. What do we do when we aren’t? We pray! We thank Him for everything! He told everyone to think about what we say before we say it. He invited everyone to stand up and be a part of the team. He explained how after every practice, they pray, and then Zach said the prayer. On the count of three, everyone yelled out: “Together!” Mr. Bowman closed the chapel. He said that today is a gift, and then he prayed over everyone. He told everyone to repent if there was something they did that was bothering them. He also gave everyone a chance to invite God into their hearts, or to reconnect with Him.



# Walk in Forgiveness

*Jon Laing shares an emotional sermon*

By: Emma Lugo

**As the worship team exited the stage, Jon Laing asked them to do something different.** He asked them to play in the background while we pray over each other and the school. Before starting his sermon, he gave an emotional prayer.

“Today, we won’t talk about forgiveness, but more so *unforgiveness*.” Jon Laing started.

He continued by telling the story of Joseph and how he was sold into slavery by his own family. Even so, Joseph forgave. He told a story in Acts 7:57. In this verse, Stephen is speaking about the history of what God does to people who don't want to hear it. Even with stones flying at him, he still forgave them. He then talked about Acts 9, in which Saul encounters the Lord and changes his life.

“Forgiveness is woven throughout the Bible.” Jon Laing continued. “If I choose not to forgive, it allows Satan to work in my life and others.”

He then provided an example on those very words. He walked over to a chair with a bag, and pulled out two stuffed animals; Cletus and Billy Ray Cyrus. They were having a birthday lunch of grilled cheese and tater tots. Once Billy Ray walked away to talk to someone, Cletus ate his lunch. Billy Ray then asked who ate his lunch. Billy Ray had a decision: to forgive him, or walk in unforgiveness. Billy Ray chose not to forgive, and picked up the big ol’ bag of unforgiveness. Inside this bag, John placed weights labeled with things brought by unforgiveness. The first one was anger. Billy Ray was mad. The second one was unholy thoughts. Billy Ray was thinking negatively about him. The third one was gossip. Billy Ray went and told everyone what he did. The fourth one was bitterness. This event changed how he acts. The fifth one was anxiety. He couldn't eat or sleep right anymore. The sixth one was depression. He was mentally broken because he didn't forgive. The seventh one is doubting God. The eighth one is questioning God. Billy Ray questioned God’s entire existence. The bag became very heavy. If he forgave, he wouldn't carry that bag around with him.



Jon then talked about Jesus speaking forgiveness over everyone as He’s crucified.

“How can we *not* forgive when He did that?!”

He made the boys stand up, and told them to never forget this:

“One day, it’ll be up to you to lead your family towards Jesus or not. If you don’t walk in forgiveness, it will affect your kids and wives lives.”

He made the girls stand up, and told them to never forget this:

“Forgive!”

He told us to leave the weight bag of unforgiveness behind, and left us with a verse. Psalm 37:3; “Trust in the Lord and do good...do the next right thing.” He ended in prayer.

Mr. Bowman came onto the stage to dismiss the students. He told us that we have no idea what a privilege it is to listen, pray, and worship freely, and that our life is an act of worship.

Another memorable student chapel occurred at GCA!

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# Girls Basketball

By: Gracyn Lee

**On January 18th, GCA had their homecoming basketball games against Alamance Christian School.** Even though the games did not turn out how we wanted them to, the girls on both teams worked very hard and we have seen much improvement. Thank you to everyone who came to support our girls and we hope to see you at our future games.



**On January 22, the JV girls played an amazing game.** We may not have pulled out the win, but we saw great improvement. The girls broke 30 and the final score was 30-48. They got many more rebounds and many more shots in this game.

**On the 25th the girls played Durham Flight.** Once again the girls are still improving. Thank you to everyone who comes out to support our Chargers. We hope to see you at our last few games.



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# Boys Basketball

By: Caleb Cox

**On Thursday, January 18, at 6:00 and 7:00, the Middle School and JV boys played in the homecoming game against Alamance Christian School.** Both teams played very well, and the JV managed to take the lead for a little bit. The teams have improved so much since their first game.





# Homecoming Spirit

By: Ella Clayton

**The GCA cheerleaders were so excited for the Homecoming game.** They worked so hard perfecting and making new cheers for the games. The captain Zeta Everett and co-captain Analynne Gonzalez choreographed a halftime dance that they all performed. Although we did not win, all of the students and players had a lot of school spirit.



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# Spring Sports Information Meeting

By: Holden Boone

**Spring Sports are here!** For anyone interested in participating in spring sports, the meeting will be Wednesday, January 31st in the GCA Cafeteria at 3:00 PM. If you are in grades 5th-10th and are interested in participating in Golf, Baseball, Tennis, Softball or Track please plan to attend this meeting, it's a great opportunity for you and your parents to learn more about GCA's plan for spring sports.

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# Adventure Awaits

## *Mission Trip Update*

By: Mady Cannady

**On January 17, 2024, Shaun Greeson came to Grace to talk about a mission trip to the high schoolers.** The mission trip is located in the Dominican Republic and will start on June 8, and will end June 15. You will stay in dorms, and also help children in a school named Freedom Christian School which has about 400 students. You will be doing various things with the students such as VBS, sports camps, and visiting them! The cost of the trip is \$1600 (\$100 deposit due upon registration, +\$165 for passport). Press the link below for more!

<https://lambs.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2018071>

**IMPORTANT:** Passport needs to be done before April 2024. This means you will have to get started as soon as possible. The link below will take you to the right place to begin the process.

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports.html>

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## Student Spotlight

By: Holden Boone



**9th grader Andrew Braun has been making and selling sourdough bread and cinnamon rolls to pay for a mission trip to the Dominican Republic with The Lamb's Chapel.** He has raised about \$1,300. Andrew's goal is \$3,000 in total for this trip. He makes 3 types of bread right now, which are Blueberry and Lemon, Jalapeno and Cheddar and Regular Sour Dough. The best seller is Jalapeno Cheddar out of all the bread. He plans to come out with a new flavor called Apple Cinnamon, which will be released and for sale during the Valentine's season. This is so great to see students wanting to raise money for such a good cause - to help spread the word of Jesus to other countries.



If anyone would like to purchase bread or cinnamon rolls, please contact Andrew's mom who is the High School Art teacher, Buffy Braun. Her email is [buffy.braun@gca-nc.com](mailto:buffy.braun@gca-nc.com) or Andrew at [andrew.braun@gcachangers.com](mailto:andrew.braun@gcachangers.com) . Specialty bread is \$8.00 a loaf, regular bread is \$6.00 a loaf, and 6 cinnamon buns are \$10.00.

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# Grace Celebrates First Homecoming Activities

By: Mady Cannady

**The new year just started and so many amazing things have happened so far including GCA's first homecoming!** On January 18, we have a pep-rally followed up by 4 homecoming basketball games. Two days later, the first HOCO dance started at 6:30 and ended at 9:30. They had many delicious foods such as cake pops (made by the yearbook class), cookies, crackers, lemonade, and many more. There were many good line dance songs, and everyone was screaming lyrics! Everyone had an amazing time and we look forward to having one again next year!



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## GCA's First Pep-Rally

By: Emerson Keye

**On Thursday, January 18th GCA had their very first Pep-Rally!** To start this off, our student council hyped up the crowd, while Mrs. Campbell announced all the players and cheerleaders as they ran through the court! After announcing everyone, the cheer team gave a performance and chanted some of their cheers. Next we had a knockout competition, with one contestant from every grade. The prize of winning this competition was that whatever grade level won didn't have to wear Grace Gear for one day! The winner was Brayden Belden from 8th grade! The next challenge was a half court attempt by Thomas Qualls, and Bentley Pergerson. They each got two tries but sadly neither of them made it. To end the pep-rally everyone came to the middle of the floor to join in for the Church Clap, and the Cupid Shuffle. Overall this was a great first pep-rally for GCA and everyone will be looking forward to the next one!



## What's Happening in Class?



**High School Welcomes Back Mrs. Stafford!** We are so excited to have Mrs. Stafford back from maternity leave! We have missed you!



# 8th Graders Visit the Natural Science Museum

By: Mady Cannady

On January 5, 2024, the 8th graders took a trip to North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences located in Raleigh, NC. Everyone had an amazing time exploring everything in the museum! There are many things in the museum such as dinosaurs, animals, planets, stars, fungi movies, and really anything you can think of! They all split into groups of 4 and 5 and explored the museum. Before they went to the museum, some groups went to the cafe to eat delicious chicken and waffles for breakfast. This trip was a fun learning experience for all the students. When they got back from the trip, they had to take a quiz on dinos and their fossils and that concluded the day!



# Mrs. Smith's Class Learn's About Lemurs and the Quarry

By: Ella Clayton



**Mrs. Smith's. Second grade class was visited by Liberty Lemur.** Two ladies from Liberty illustrated a children's book and brought it to the class. They read the book to them and showed the illustrations. They also brought Lemur snacks for the kids to try. Sandra Martin is one of the illustrators and also our

Jace Martin's grandmother.





**Emma Moore's dad also visited Mrs. Smith's class.** He works for Martin Marietta. He came to talk to the class about what he does at his job with the quarry.



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## First Dual Enrollment Students

By: Caleb Cox

**Grace Christian Academy officially has its first students for the dual enrollment program.** Two sophomores, Zach Livers and Caleb Cox, are now each taking two college courses at Alamance Community College, just down the road. They were able to pass a CogAT test, and attend a semester earlier than most dual enrollment students. They are each taking Precalculus and Public Speaking and are both very successful in their classes so far, and should do very well.

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## Dad Jokes

By: Nathan Ross

- How does NASA plan their parties? ***THEY PLANET***
- How do trees get into the internet? ***THEY LOG IN***
- What do you call a laughing motorcycle? ***A YAHA MA HA HA HA HA HA HA***

## GCA Pledges

Every day before class, every student recites the three pledges that they have memorized while here at GCA.

**Pledge of Allegiance-** I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

**Christian Pledge-** I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag, and to the Savior for whose kingdom it stands; one Savior, crucified, risen and coming again with life and liberty to all who believe.

**Bible Pledge-** I pledge allegiance to the Bible, God's Holy Word. I will make it a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path and I will hide its words in my heart that I might not sin against God.

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## Upcoming Events At Grace!

By: Ella Clayton



- **Wednesday, January 31st** - Sports Information Meeting
- **Thursday, February 1st** - Half Day of School - Early Release - No Afterschool Care
- **Friday, February 2nd** - Daddy/Daughter Dance
- **Saturday, February 3rd** - Mother/Son Dance
- **Friday, February 16** - Teacher Work Day
- **Monday, February 19th** - No School Presidents Day
- **Friday, February 23rd** - Athletic Sports Banquet
- **Monday, January 29th** - Middle School Girls - 5pm | JV Girls - 6pm Home Basketball Games
- **Thursday, February 1st** - Middle School Boys 5pm | JV Boys at 6pm - Home Basketball Games
- **Monday, February 5th** - Middle School Girls 5pm | JV Girls 6pm - Home Basketball Games
- **Tuesday, February 6th** - 6pm JV boys - Basketball Game **AIRPORT CAMPUS**
- **Thursday, February 8th** - JV Girls 5pm - Home Basketball Game

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***Follow Grace Christian Academy on Facebook to see more photos of school activities.***



















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# February Lunch Menu

## February 2024

School Lunch Price - \$4.00 Retain this lunch calendar for your records.  
Teacher's take lunch counts each morning. If your student is not eating school lunch please make sure they have one from home. All students should bring their water bottle each day.

### Grace Christian Academy

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			01 Early Release at 11:30 No Lunch or After School Care	02 Pizza Vegetable Fruit 
05 Chicken Nuggets Vegetable Fruit 	06 Cheeseburger Vegetable Fruit 	07 Chicken Sandwich Vegetable Fruit 	08 Grilled Cheese Sandwich Vegetable Fruit 	09 Hotdog Vegetable Fruit 
12 Chicken Nuggets Vegetable Fruit 	13 Cheeseburger Vegetable Fruit 	14 Chicken Sandwich Vegetable Fruit 	15 Grilled Cheese Sandwich Vegetable Fruit 	16 <b>Teacher Work Day</b> <b>No school for students</b>
19 <b>President's Day Holiday</b> <b>No school for students/staff</b>	20 Corn Dog Vegetable Fruit 	21 Chicken Sandwich Vegetable Fruit 	22 Grilled Cheese Sandwich Vegetable Fruit 	23 Pizza Vegetable Fruit 
26 Chicken Nuggets Vegetable Fruit 	27 Cheeseburger Vegetable Fruit 	28 Chicken Sandwich Vegetable Fruit 	29 Grilled Cheese Sandwich Vegetable Fruit 	



# WORDS OF RACE STAFF

Emerson Keye, Holden Boone, Gracyn Lee  
Nathan Ross, Mady Cannady, Emma Lugo, Caleb Cox, Ella Clayton



We hope you enjoyed this edition of our student published GCA Newspaper, *Words of Grace*. Please share your class events or stories that you would like to see covered in future editions, with Elaine Austin, [elaine.austin@gca-nc.com](mailto:elaine.austin@gca-nc.com) or your newspaper staff contact.

CREATED FOR  
A PURPOSE

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Words of Grace is a student newspaper published every other week for the students by the students and is not meant to be a professional publication. Every effort was made to report positive, encouraging and accurate information.

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