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# WORDS OF GRACE

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VOLUME 2: NO 4

• FOR THE STUDENTS BY THE STUDENTS! •

December 15, 2023

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## Jesus is the Reason for the Season

By: Emma Lugo



**This year's Christmas chapel was extraordinary!** All the students showed their Christmas spirit by singing on stage. Preschool sang *Christmas Time is Here*, Kindergarten and 1st grade sang *He Shall Reign* forever more, 2nd grade sang *O Come All Ye Faithful*, 3rd grade sang *Unto Us a Child is Born* and *Isaiah 9:6*, 4th grade sang *Away in a Manger*, and 5th sang *It's Christmas*. Despite only having 11 people due to sickness, they still did a fantastic job. 6th grade rang bells to *O Holy Night*, 7th grade sang *Mary Did You Know?*, and high school sang *Hallelujah*. Lucy Trollinger, Lily Cox, Grayson Thornton, Shyann Carden, and Analynn Gonzalez had solos, and were joined by the rest of

highschool for the chorus.

Pastor Lydio Banana from The Lamb's Chapel gave an amazing sermon about the promises of God.

"The more you read the Bible, the more you get to know Him." He started. "We put heart into what we give." He then asked the students to turn to their neighbor and tell them what the best gift they ever received was. Pastor Banana's was a skateboard that his dad gave him. He then stated that God has a gift he wants to give us from His heart. The first gift was the gift of life that he breathed into Adam and Eve. Pastor Lydio then blew up a balloon to represent God's relationship with mankind. He then held it over a candle, and it burst. This represented the broken relationship with God.

The second promise is the freeing of the Israelites from Egypt. God also gave the 10 commandments. The first two were to love God and love others. God blessed Israel so they could bless others. He gave the law so people could keep it. Pastor Lydio blew up another balloon, but it popped. Humanity was fallen, so they couldn't keep the law.

God's last promise was a savior that would redeem humanity so we could be close to God again. This promise was fulfilled with Jesus. He pulled out another balloon, this time filled with air and a bit of water. The balloon didn't break, because Jesus can't be destroyed. God gave the free gift of Jesus. Pastor Lydio then stated we should share this gift with others by telling people Jesus loves them.

To conclude, he then told us to share the gift of Jesus this season. And then ended in prayer.

"Jesus is the reason for the season!" He exclaimed.

The dance team then came on stage to dance to *O Come Emmanuel*. Mady Canady then read the Christmas story; Luke 2, while Mr Bowman layed a manger in the center of the stage. Mrs. Benz came onstage

to sing with high school. They sang *Silent Night*, while the lights were dim and everyone in the audience turned on their flashlights.

This year's Christmas chapel was quite memorable, and filled with joy and love.

# Praise the Lord

## *GCA's first Praise and Worship service of the year*

By: Emma Lugo



**“Why do we worship?”** Daniel Howell asked the students after the worship team performed. Kids of all ages responded with things like “to be friends with God”, “to let the Holy Spirit in your heart”, “because God is good”, and “to praise the Lord.” If you’re having a bad day, or woke up on the wrong side of the bed, then you go to school and worship, things get better. He then read Romans 12:1, which states: “ 1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.” He also said we can never outrun Jesus and His love. He died for us, and we should worship to thank Him. “Have you seen how good God is to us? It’s all about how you perceive things. Just look

around!” He exclaimed. The worship team played a few more songs before Alivia Gillespie read Psalm 188:1-2 which states: “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. 2 Let Israel say: ‘His love endures forever.’” She then explained that we praise the Lord because we want to, not because we have to. The worship team played a few more songs before Mr. Bowman closed out in prayer. Before the students left, he spoke to the group. He said that a friend asked him if anyone prays for him. He exclaimed “well, yes! Yes they do.”



For this Christmas season, he told us to give the gift of prayer. We have to pray, because we can’t do anything without God’s mercy and grace. He then dismissed the students. The first worship chapel of the year moved many hearts!

# JV Girls Basketball

By: Gracyn Lee

**On November 30th, our highschool girls had their first basketball game against the Hawbridge School.** The team is coached by April Ross. The girls played so hard and came out on top in the end. The room was filled with excitement and anticipation. We also had our cheerleaders cheer for the first time at a game and they did awesome. We are so grateful that our school has basketball this year and can't wait to see what the rest of the season has in store for the girls. Since then, we have had two more games and though they didn't go well, the girls still tried their hardest and worked together the best they could. On December 11th, Mrs. Durham's mom, Belinda Church, joined our team to help Coach Ross. She will be there every practice and we are so excited to have her help with our team. We hope to see you at our next game! Be there and be loud!



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# Middle Girls Basketball

By: Nathan Ross

**Grace Christian Academy is excited to have a Middle School Girls basketball team this year.** They have had scrimmage to start the season. They played very well. They have played a couple more games and continue to improve. They are a young team and are working hard. The team is coached by April Ross. Come out and cheer for them at their next basketball game!



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# Boys Basketball

By: Caleb Cox

**On Tuesday, November 28, the middle school boys basketball** team had their first game against Positive Day School, a homeschool team from Burlington. The game started at 5:00 p.m. The away team had larger players, and more experienced players, though our team still got rebounds and steals. Jackson Curry, a sixth grader, made the most points on our team. Despite our best efforts, we could not win the game.

**On Thursday, November 30, at 6:30 p.m. the JV boys basketball** team had their first game. They played against Hawbridge, from Saxapahaw. It was many players' first game, and we were challenged by their taller players, but still managed many points, rebounds, and steals against the larger, more experienced team. Our team was a challenge to Hawbridge, but we lost the game.

**On Friday, December 8, at 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. the Middle School and JV boys** teams had an away game against the CH Friends all the way in Virginia. The middle school boys were able to win, but the high school team could not.

**On Monday, December 11, at 5:30 and 6:30 the Middle School and JV boys** had an away game against the Raleigh Hawks. We lost both games, but Zach Livers, a Sophomore, was able to score 12 points and get 10 rebounds resulting in a double double.



# We've Got Spirit, How 'Bout You?

By: Ella Clayton

**This is the first year for GCA to have a cheer team.** The coaches are Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Durham, and Mrs. Austin. The cheer Captain is Zeta Everett(8) and co-captain is Analyne Gonzalez(8) and the other cheerleaders are Graysen Thornton(8), Shyann Carden(9), Ella Clayton(9), Victoria Arrwood(10), Brianna Bowden(10), Taylor Speicher(10), and Maylee Terry(10). The first game that we cheered at was November 30th. Everyone had fun being able to sit in the bleachers and cheer for our team.



## Basketball Schedule



'23-'24

**Tues Nov 28 vs. Positive Day (SCRIMMAGE)**  
5:00 MS Boys

**Thursday Nov 30 vs. Hawbridge**  
5:00 JV Girls, 6:30 JV Boys

**Tuesday Dec 5 @ Faith Christian School**  
3:30 JV Girls

**Thursday Dec 7 @ Chatham Thunder**  
4:00 MS Girls, 5:00 JV Girls

**Friday Dec 8 @ CH Friend School**  
5:00 MS Boys, 6:00 JV Boys

**Monday Dec 11 @ Raleigh Hawks**  
5:30 MS Boys, 6:30 JV Boys

**Thursday Dec 14 @ Burlington Christian**  
5:00 MS Girls, 6:00 MS Boys

**Monday Dec 18 - Internal GCA Scrimmages**  
5:00 MS Boys, 6:00 JV Boys

**Friday Jan 5 @ Chatham Thunder**  
4:00 MS Girls

**Thursday Jan 11 vs. Liberty Christian**  
5:00 MS Boys, 6:00 JV Boys

**Tuesday Jan 16 vs. Burlington Christian**  
4:00 MS Girls, 5:00 MS Boys

**Thurs Jan 18 vs. ACS \*\* PEP RALLY**  
3:30 MS Girls, 4:30 JV Girls  
6:00 MS Boys, 7:00 JV Boys

**Mon Jan 22 vs. Haw River Christian**  
3:30 MS Boys, 4:30 JV Boys  
6:00 MS Girls, 7:00 JV Girls

**Tues Jan 23 @ Liberty Christian**  
3:30 MS Boys, 4:30 JV Boys

**Thurs Jan 25 vs. Durham Flight**  
5:00 JV Girls, 6:30 JV Boys

**Saturday Jan 27 @ Durham Flight**  
12:00 MS Girls, 1:00 MS Boys

**Monday Jan 29 vs. Central Carolina Acad.**  
5:00 MS Girls, 6:00 JV Girls

**Monday Feb 5 vs Central Carolina Acad.**  
5:00 MS Girls, 6:00 JV Girls

**Tuesday Feb 6 vs. Raleigh Hawks**  
5:00 MS Boys, 6:00 JV Boys

**Thursday Feb 8 vs. Faith Christian School**  
5:00 JV Girls

**Thursday Feb 15 @ Haw River Christian**  
4:00 MS Girls, 5:00 MS Boys  
6:00 JV Girls, 7:15 JV Boys

Red = GCA Gym; Blue = TLC Airport Gym

GCA Basketball Schedule v6 - Updated Dec. 5

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# Adventure Awaits

By: Mady Cannady

Coming up in June of 2024, GCA has opened an opportunity for high school students to travel to the Dominican Republic for a mission trip. You will also serve along to help Freedom International Ministries and also help children receive the word of God and to possibly get saved! The dates are June 8-15. It cost about \$1,600 for the trip! If you need more information, click the link below:

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

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# Jeremy Camp and Newsong Concert

By: Gracyn Lee

Hope radio partnered with Grace Christian Academy to have a fundraiser for our school by having Jeremy Camp and Newsong at The Lamb's Chapel singing in concert. People bought tickets to have front section seats and also have an amazing dinner before the concert. Others had balcony seats but still had a great view. Alex Brewer from GCA had an opportunity to go on stage and sing with Newsong. They sang the number one hit, "Christmas Shoes". It was a very meaningful song and brought tears to so many. Thank you to everyone who came to the concert and sang their hearts out!



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# Student Spotlight

By: Nathan Ross



Alex Brewer Surprised everyone by getting up on the stage at the Jeremy Camp and Newsong concert. Alex helped Newsong sing their #1 Hit *Christmas Shoes* song. Alex shocked everyone, even his parents and his sister. They did not know he would be performing with Newsong! Everyone loved Alex's performance with Newsong.

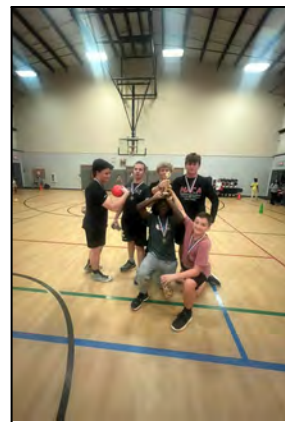
# GCA's First Turkey Ball Tournament

By: Emma Lugo

**This year's Dodgeball Tournament was a blast!** There were 2 teacher teams (Dodge, Duck, Dip, Dive, Dodge (D5) and The Rejects). And 9 student teams ( Fast Balls, GOATS, Odd Balls, The Nates, Family Friendly, Not So Friendly, Sour Patch Kids. warriors, Mustangs, and Tomahawks).

All teams were excited to play, with a healthy dose of competitiveness! D5 had a great themed showing with the Bowman's representing the dodgeballs tournament namesake Turkey. Fast Balls made an amazing comeback through the loss bracket to play The Nates in the championship game.

The 10th grade boys (The Nates) beat the 7th graders in a tough game. Mr. Bowman's team, Dodge, Duck, Dip, Dive, Dodge (D5), gave grace and allowed the seventh grade boys to continue on even after beating them. Everyone is already excited for next year's tournament. Thanks to Mrs. Braun the Booster Club for putting this event together!



# GCA 's Little Pink Houses of Hope Donation

By: Holden Boone



**We are in this together!** A group of students here at GCA decided to raise money for LPHOH. If you don't know what LPHOH is, Little Pink Houses Of Hope is a non-profit that raises money for Breast Cancer patient retreats! Little Pink Houses started when Jeanie Patten-Coble had breast cancer and decided to start this amazing company to provide week long retreats for women with cancer to make memories with their families and take a break from the stresses that cancer causes. Students raised money through a 50/50 Raffle, donation booth and just general donations. Through these 3 events they collected \$315.00 for

LPHOH. On Wednesday November 29th, Katherine Palman came to GCA to receive the donation.

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# Christmas Piano Recital

Contributed By: Selena Shaw

*Students are blessed to have the opportunity to take piano lessons during the school day at GCA under the instruction of the amazing Melissa Benz. Grace has a lot of talented performers and showed it at their recital on Saturday, December 9 in the Chapel. Selena Shaw is one of those very talented students. She sang and played Hymn of Heaven by Phil Wickman. Here she shares what it is like to be a performer in the recital.*

My name is Selena Shaw, I'm in 9th grade and I play the piano. I was given the honor of playing at the recent piano recital on 12/9/23. I was the last one to play, and once I got up on stage I began to panic. I started trembling out of nervousness. Once I sat down I took a deep breath, adjusted my mic and began playing. Throughout my entire performance, looking down at my hands trembling was just motivation to keep going. I knew I was playing for the Lord, and within 3 minutes the song was over. Once I sat down I realized that I was still shaking and continued too for the next 10 minutes. Even though I was incredibly nervous the entire time, I sang for the Lord.





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# Christmas Spirit Week

By: Ella Clayton

**Even though it was exam week, everyone had fun participating in Christmas Spirit Week.** The themes were Monday: Hat Day, Tuesday: Christmas Sock Day, Wednesday: Ugly Sweater Day, Thursday: Dress Your Best, and Friday: Pajama Day. Dress your best day was a community chapel day. Everyone was dressed up in their best outfits. The whole school participated in singing in chapel. Christmas Spirit Week got everyone excited for Christmas break.



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# High School News

By: Mady Cannady and Caleb Cox

## Student Council

**The Student Council has had four meetings and have been working on the homecoming dance, which is scheduled for January 20.** Tickets are required to attend and will be on sale for \$15 until January 18.

## First Aid

**Over the past two weeks, the Health class has been learning about first aid.** On November 14, the class did a hands-on activity. There was a victim that was either choking, diabetic, broken bone, etc. One person would come over to assist the victim correctly. They all had a fun time and also learned how to properly put a sling on a broken arm! They learned CPR, heimlich remover, and what to do in many situations such as a choking victim, a stroke, shock, heat exhaustion and so much more!

## Happiness is a Fresh Pair of PJ Pants

In Family Consumer Science class, they have officially finished the PJ pants! They started about 6-7 weeks ago and have done an amazing job making them. They all picked comfy and colorful fabric and the pants came out very well! They all had a fun time not only sewing fabric, but also spending time together.

### Exams

It is the final week of school before we get two weeks off for Christmas. So, that means that it's exam time! There are only three days to take exams, and some extra days for makeup exams. There are many exams this week such as Health, World History, Science, Yearbook, Math, Spanish, etc. Everyone has studied very hard for these exams and are excited for the break to begin!



## Middle School News

By: Emma Lugo and Nathan Ross

Middle School has many exciting things going on! In 7th grade, they are reading *A Christmas Carol*, by Charles Dickens. They are discussing the characters and the plot. They also made a chain of regrets, then discussed what to do if they did something wrong, from a Biblical aspect. They had a lot of fun participating in Christmas Spirit Week. They are looking forward to Christmas break!



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## Elementary School News

By: Ella Clayton

**The 4th and 5th graders finished the book Willie Wonka.** They all dressed up as characters from the movie. Everyone had fun making edible chocolate playdough. They were able to see the book come to life by taking a field trip to see the movie. A bluegrass band named New Direction came and performed for the whole elementary school. Everyone enjoyed being able to listen to music and get a break from all of their school work. The Kindergarten Classes went to the movies to see Polar Express.



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## Preschool News

**Preschool students have had a lot of fun these past few weeks.** They had a birthday party for Jesus! They had cake and sang Happy Birthday! They had a lot of fun participating in Christmas Spirit week. They did an amazing job performing at the Christmas Chapel. They, also, had a treat recently when the high school students taught PE because the school was short-handed with teachers and subs because of illness. They had a lot of fun with the high school students. The preschool teachers do an amazing job with these little Chargers!



# Dad Jokes

By: Nathan Ross

- What do you call a pudgy psychic? **A four-chin teller.**
  - Why are elevator jokes so classic and good? **They work on many levels.**
  - What did the police officer say to his belly-button? **You're under a vest.**
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# 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!

**New fun and exciting things that are coming up in the next few months!**

- December 15 - January 3: Christmas Break
- January 4: New semester begins for high school
- January 18: Pep Rally and Homecoming Basketball Game
- January 20: Homecoming Dance (8th - 10th grade) - TLC Airport Campus







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

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# January Lunch Menu

<b>January 2024</b>		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.				
<b>Grace Christian Academy</b>						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday		
<b>01</b> New Year's Day - Holiday No School for Students/Staff	<b>02</b> Teacher Workday No School for Students	<b>03</b> Teacher Workday No School for Students	<b>04</b> Grilled Cheese Sandwich Vegetable Fruit	<b>05</b> Pizza Vegetable Fruit		
<b>08</b> Chicken Nuggets Vegetable Fruit	<b>09</b> Cheeseburger Vegetable Fruit	<b>10</b> Chicken Sandwich Vegetable Fruit	<b>11</b> Grilled Cheese Sandwich Vegetable Fruit	<b>12</b> Hotdog Vegetable Fruit		
<b>15</b> No School for Students/Staff MLK Holiday	<b>16</b> Cheeseburger Vegetable Fruit	<b>17</b> Chicken Sandwich Vegetable Fruit	<b>18</b> Grilled Cheese Sandwich Vegetable Fruit	<b>19</b> Pizza Vegetable Fruit		
<b>22</b> Chicken Nuggets Vegetable Fruit	<b>23</b> Cheesy Beefy Mac Vegetable Fruit	<b>24</b> Chicken Sandwich Vegetable Fruit	<b>25</b> Grilled Cheese Sandwich Vegetable Fruit	<b>26</b> Taco Vegetable Fruit		
<b>29</b> Chicken Nuggets Vegetable Fruit	<b>30</b> Cheeseburger Vegetable Fruit	<b>31</b> Chicken Sandwich Vegetable Fruit				

The Words of Grace Newspaper Staff wishes you a restful, memorable, Jesus filled Christmas!

# 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*. We have lots of news to share in the next issue. 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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