WORDS OF **RACE**

VOLUME 2: NO 1

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FOR THE STUDENTS BY THE STUDENTS!

September 29, 2023

Welcome Back to School, GCA!



By: Holden Boone

Welcome back to GCA!

We are so excited for this new year and new things to come. This year will be another great year to put in the books! The first day of school was August 16th and the newspaper staff had so much fun! We went around and took cute pictures of the kids and talked to them about their summer. On the First few days of school all the kids were getting used to a good flow and routine and how things work here at GCA. They were so excited to see their friends and teachers. The middle school and high school students were so happy to be in their new buildings. The teachers were extremely happy to finally have classrooms with ceilings, walls and doors! We are glad to have all of you here this year! Let's make it an amazing year!



God is Good

First Student Chapel of the School Year



"God is good!" Is how John Lang started out the first student chapel. This high school Bible teacher spoke about how God is the one in control of our life. He first told a story about how when he was five, he used to have a Nintendo. His favorite games were Super Mario Brothers, and Duck Hunt because he could control everything the characters do. Just like the characters in the video games, he liked to try and control his life. However, he got to a point where he just had to give it up to God, because God is the only one who knows the future and can control the universe and everything in it.

He also spoke about how God used Paul to spread the Gospel. He stated that "the love of Christ" controls us, and we get in trouble when we take the controller from God. He made an analogy about how By: Emma Lugo

when you squeeze a mustard bottle onto a hotdog, it's like God squeezing life onto us. He then presented a few verses, which are 2 Corinthians 5:15-18: "15 And He died for all. that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again." He made sure to put emphasis on how He died for *everyone*, even the people you see passing by at the grocery store. "16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer." "Living for yourself and not for what God desires is selfish", is what he said about going against God's control. He also stated that God loves us so much he can change how we see people, and when we don't see people as children of God, we are taking that controller back. He then told a story about getting glasses. When he was around 8 years old, he noticed how he couldn't see the board in class. His mother took him to the eye doctor, and he thought the machines they used looked like alien technology. He got his glasses, and picked out the

biggest frames he could find. When he stepped outside, everything was so much brighter and clearer. He could even see the definition in the leaves in the trees. This is like how Christ makes you a new creature, and purifies your outlook.

He then presents us with a mission. "Now, this mission is really important, verse 17-18 states '17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.' Does anyone know what reconciliation means?" He explained that reconciliation is like when you're arguing with a sibling or a friend, and your mother puts you in front of each other and tells you to apologize. "God loves us so much that He sent His son to reconcile this world. It's our mission to reconcile the broken world back to God. When we don't go to people and tell them about God. We have taken the controller back for our life."He finishes out with 2 Corinthians 5:19-20; "19 that

God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God." John kicked off this year with a great start to many more amazing student chapels!

New Buildings, New School Year

After waiting for ages, the new buildings have finally been completed! With closed roofs and nice air conditioning, we can finally learn in peace. The students were excited to come into the classrooms! There are many different classes that are learning many different things. Health class is

By: Mady Cannady



learning about the skeletal system, muscles, and digestive

system. Science is making fudge to learn how to convert different measurements. History is learning about the Middle East. Math is learning about algebra, geometry, midpoint, and distance. What a great start to the new school year!

Buckle Up Drivers Education Begins at GCA

By Caleb Cox



Monday, August 28, was GCA's first day of drivers

ed. The class started at 3:15 and lasted until 6:15. Mr. Tim started the students off with an eye test with all the students doing well. Following the eye test, class started. The first thing the students learned was some vocabulary such as HTS (Highway Transportation System), the IPDE process, and zone control. After that, the class did some worksheets, taking turns answering questions. Then, there was a brief intermission, and the class started chapter two, which was about signs, and roadway markings. Following that, the students, once again, answered questions as a class. Overall the

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first day of drivers ed was a huge success. As the classes continued the students learned a lot from Tim Britt, but they, also, had two guest speakers, Sheriff Terry Johnson, and Mrs. Boone. The Sheriff came to talk to everyone about how dangerous driving while intoxicated is, and Susan Boone told everyone about insurance.





The class also learned how to change a tire. They learned how to use the IPDE process, which stands for Identify, Predict, Decide, and Execute. They learned how to drive safely in dangerous conditions. All ten students passed the exam, and will begin driving soon. Congratulations to Braeden Hernandez who was the first GCA student (who went through the driving portion of GCA's drivers ed) to get his permit.



*Note GCA has several other students who have their license or permit.

We Are So Blessed Family Chapel By: Emma Lugo



"We are so blessed to be at this school," John Laing said while walking on the stage. "We are so blessed to experience this every day, and to worship freely everyday." Even if we are having a bad day, we should always be blessed. He asks if we ever get sidetracked when we pray, then tells us quite the story. John says he has the same routine every morning. He gets up at around 5 am, grabs a cup of coffee, and heads outside to worship. One day, a bat interrupted his prayer and flew right in front of his face. After he attempted to pull his thoughts together, he headed inside to a desk in the living room. When he tried to restart his prayer, he was unable to pull his

thoughts together. He then started thinking about all the things that could have happened. He thought about his wife letting the dog out, and the dog jumping on his face to get the bat, and all of the possibilities. He then realized that he was Batman. He then designed his very own cape and batmobile, and questioned how he would tell his family that he was Batman. The main purpose of that story was to state how distracted we can get when we don't pay attention to God. He then presents us with a few powerful verses from 1 Chronicles 16, and said we should apply them to our daily lives; "8 Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done."

He then tells another story about him and Mr. Bowman earlier. They were cleaning and throwing out stuff, and John looked into the pile of objects that were being thrown away. He found a picture frame that had a good quote about entering prayer with a heart of gratitude. "God has a plan for your life. Satan does as well,"

He said. Your prayer of gratitude can shatter the enemy's plan. He asks students to raise their hands and fill in the blank to this sentence: "thank you Lord for _____." The students replied with nature, family freedom, food, teachers, and school.

John gives us two challenges to focus on. The first one was to ask yourself "how do I view God?" for one month. How you view God can affect your prayers, your needs, and your life. The second challenge was to ask yourself what God has done in your life. He instructs us to make a list and write down ten things you're grateful for, and every day to add ten more, then present the list to God in prayer.

He continues with the following verse from 1 Chronicles 16: "9 Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts." He talked about how much God moved at the 9th and 10th grade retreat last week, and how awesome it was. After the trip, a student came up to him and said that they wrote a song. They then presented it to him, and the first word on that page was "holy". He gave us one final challenge. This is to seek God, and *always* seek God. All in all, John delivered quite an important message that we should all take to heart.

Order on the Court!

Middle School Volleyball

By: Mady Cannady and Emerson Keye

After a couple weeks of practice, our Middle School volleyball team played their first match against Clover Garden on August 24th. The girls tried their hardest but came up

short in the end. They had amazing passes and

serves! They were nervous, but that didn't stop them from cheering each other on! We thank everyone who came out and cheered the girls on, and showed their support in their Hawaiian attire! Below you will find our theme nights for our home volleyball games, as well as pictures from the first home game!







Setting It Up Middle School Volleyball Game

By: Emerson Keye

On September 8th the middle school team played their 3rd game of the season against The Hawbridge School. They played so well and even won their first set! The girls have improved so much on their serving, and passing. The game was so close but the girls came up short. On September 12th the girls played their 4th game and took home their first win! The girls did amazing and never gave up.







Chargers Win High School Volleyball

By: Gracyn Lee

On September 8th, 2023, we woke bright and early at Camp Caswell excited about the day ahead. The volleyball team headed home early, ready to play their first game of the season at The Hawbridge School. When we got back to the school we prepared for the game and headed there on the bus with the mindset of winning the game. We warmed up and did the coin toss to decide who had the first serve. The Chargers won the coin toss. We came into our team meeting and prayed that

we would all be safe and have the confidence to do a great job. The Hawbridge school had a coed volleyball team and they were a very good team. We were nervous at first but we didn't let that stop us. The first set flew by and we won with no trouble but that's not how the second set went. The second set began and not much later The Hawbridge School was up by a lot, to the point it seemed out of reach. We knew how much we wanted the win and so we didn't give up. We fought hard until the score was tied 24-24. In volleyball you have to win by two points. I was up to serve at the time and I knew I just had to get the ball over the net. We got the next two points back to back and that was how we won our very first GCA high school volleyball game. We were all so excited! We could not have done it without each other, our coaches and the best audience!



High School Volleyball Falls Short

By: Gracyn Lee

On September 12, 2023, the high school volleyball girls played their first away game. They played at the Carolina friends school. The GCA girls are a JV team, but the Carolina Friends school only had a varsity team, so that's who we played. We won the first set but came up short in the next two. Unfortunately we lost the game. Overall we worked super hard and gave it our all. Thank you to everyone who came out to support our girls at the first away volleyball game for our high school girls.



Block This!

By: Mady Cannady

On September 21, 2023 The JV Girls Volleyball team played against Clover Garden, and took home the win! In the first set, the score was 25-14. In the second set, the score was 25-18. The girls worked really hard and never gave up. There were amazing serves, passes, sets and dives. They all worked together and had a fun time. They did have some missed serves and shanks, but they shook it off and continued the game! We hope to see everyone on the 28th dressed in Western attire! Be ready to cheer these girls on!

Volleyball schedule and theme nights

		Grace Christi Volleyball							
	2023								
				No.					
August 24	4:00	Middle School	Clover Garden	HOME					
August 31	5:15	VL	Carolina Friends School	HOME					
September 5	4:00	Middle School	Burlington Christian Academy	HOME					
September 7	4:30	Middle School	Clover Garden	AWAY					
September 8	4:00	Middle School	The Hawbridge School	AWAY					
September 12	4:00	Middle School	Carolina Friends School	AWAY					
September 14	5:00	VL	Clover Garden	HOME					
September 21	5:00	VL	Clover Garden	AWAY					
September 28	4:00	Middle School	Carolina Friends School	HOME					
September 29	4:00	Middle School	Alamance Christian School	HOME					
October 3	4:00	Middle School	The Burlington School	AWAY					
October 5	4:00	Middle School	The Hawbridge School	HOME					
October 10	4:00	Middle School	The Burlington School	HOME					
October 12	4:00	Middle School	CH Friends	HOME					



Dad Jokes By: Nathan Ross

- "Dad, did you get a haircut?" "No, I got them all cut!"
- "What do you call a poor Santa Claus?" "St. Nickel-less."
- "Where do boats go when they're sick?" "To the boat doc."
 - "I don't trust those trees". "They seem kind of shady."



GCA Hosts First Home Cross Country Meet

By: Caleb Cox

The athletes arrived at Camp Deer Lake at 3:30 on Thursday, August 24. It was sunny and very hot. The coaches and students said a prayer before The Burlington School's cross country team arrived at 4:10.

The first of two races, which was the girls' race, started at 4:48. Zoe Reynolds and Finley Manley were neck and neck for the first ³/₄ miles but Zoe finally gained some ground. Zoe came in at 5:04 with a time of 15 minutes and 15 seconds. It was Finley Manley's, the second place finisher, first cross country meet.

At 5:25, the boys' race started. The leading 4 stayed together the whole race, but at the end, Tucker Jones won, with a time of 15:06, followed by Brayden Belden, Dion Sedota, and Bentley Pergerson, respectively. At the end of the race Tucker said that he pushed harder than he ever had before, and focused on breathing. Eli Dipert completed his goal of beating his brother, Leo. The meet ended with an awards ceremony, with the places being:



MS Girls

- 1. Zoe Reynolds 15:15
- 2. Finley Manley 18:33
- 3. Cali Kopetskie 18:37

HS Girls

- 1. Isabella Murray 25:51
 - 2. Alana Logan 32:23

MS Boys

- 1. Brayden Belden 15:12
- 2. Bentley Pergerson 15:41
 - 3. Eli Dipert 18:01

HS Boys

- 1. Tucker Jones 15:06
- 2. Dion Sedota 15:20
- 3. Jeremiah Workman 17:01

Cross Country

By: Emma Lugo

On September 11, GCA's cross country team traveled to a meet in Kernersville. Some of the boys hopped in Coach Beldin's car, while the rest of the team piled in the van driven by Coach Sedota. On the hour drive, the van was very loud. Jordan and Sara kept singing, while everyone else was on their phones and yelling. Once they arrived, they unloaded the chairs and tent, and prepared for the race. There was over 500 people there, which made everyone kind of nervous. The middle school girls ran first, then middle school boys, then highschool boys, and finally high school girls. Mostly everyone improved their times by a significant amount while they were cheered on by the rest of the team. The people who needed a ride back to the school stopped at Chick-Fil-et. After another long van ride, they finally got back to the school at around 9 pm. No one wanted to go back into the sanctuary to get their stuff because of how dark it was.



Cross Country Meets Clover Garden

By: Caleb Cox

On September 21, the cross country team had a meet against Clover Garden middle and high school. At 3:30, the course walkthrough began. The high schoolers had a new course that everyone had a very positive opinion about. The middle school co-ed race began at 4:10. At 4:24, the first three finishers, Kendal Howell, Brayden Belden, and Bentley Pergerson finished. It was very close, but Kendal was able to overtake Brayden and Bentley at the last second, winning the race. The high school co-ed race began around 4:50. Lucas Roney immediately took a huge lead with Tucker Jones and Brice Stanfield trailing him. At 5:10, Lucas finished with a time of 20:23. Two minutes later, Tucker Jones came through with a time of 22:52.

MS Girls

- 1. Kaelin Vincent 15:55 Clover Garden
 - 2. Finley Manley 16:48 GCA
- 3. Norah Mumburi 16:59 Clover Garden

MS Boys

- 1. Kendal Howell 14:19 Clover Garden
 - 2. Brayden Belden 14:34 GCA
 - 3. Bentley Pergerson 14:34.50 GCA

HS Girls

- 1. Brielle Brown 25:42 Clover Garden
 - 2. Khloe May 27:49 Clover Garden
- 3. Abby Ward 30:58 Clover Garden

HS Boys

- 1. Lucas Roney 20:23 Clover Garden
 - 2. Tucker Jones 22:52 GCA
- 3. Brice Stanfield 23:38 Clover Garden

High School Retreat Reflection

By: Mady Cannady

On September 6, 2023, the 9th and 10th graders stepped onto separate vans to start the adventure to Fort Caswell! All the vans had something either chaotic or relaxing happening. For example, the girls van had some karaoke going on while the volleyball van was sleeping and living their best life. On the boys van, they unfortunately had no AC! What a fun way to start a four hour trip! About halfway there, we stopped at a restaurant called Pizza Inn. The pizza wasn't the best, but the cheese bread was amazing! Almost everyone filled up with it. When we arrived at the cabins, we started to make up our beds and get everything organized. At around 5:45, it was time for dinner. On the menu were some chicken and beef tacos with some mashed beans. What a delicious way to have some stomach problems!

After dinner, it was time to start the devotion. Jon Laing was talking about pride and how it can affect our lives and our walk with God. He first talked about two ships that would not change the course because of pride. How did that affect them? Well, unfortunately 385 people passed away because of this accident. The main focus of this lesson was John 13 when Jesus offered to wash his disciples' feet. Why? The disciples had pride and Jesus showed that even when we sin, he will still forgive us and do anything for us. He showed all of us what Jesus did. Jon washed the boy's feet while Mrs. Adkins washed all the girls' feet. The Holy Spirit was in the room! Two girls were led and decided to wash Mrs. Adkins' feet. Everyone was letting everything out. We were all comforting each other and never left anyone out. Overall, all glory is given to God. Don't let your guard down! After devotion, some people played a game called Romans and Christians. But, they were playing it wrong. They were basically playing tag! We had some ice cream and played in the gym. Next thing you know it is time to go to bed! The beds were pretty uncomfortable. A thin mattress with a wood board underneath. Anyone could barely sleep.

The next day, Mrs. Adkins led the morning devotion. We played a game where seven boys were blindfolded and were led by seven girls to find their shoes (Yes, the room did stink). But, the point of the game was that many things are going to distract us from our walk with Jesus! Always follow the right path! After that, half of us went to the beach and half went fishing. The beach was very fun, but the water was a muddy color and some people got bit by unknown things. The people who were fishing encountered an old man who shared his testimony. He said, "If you are going to pray, don't worry, if you are going to worry, don't pray." After all of that, we went to the pool. There were seagulls all around and the boys were playing jackpot while the girls were sitting around the pool chilling.

The last night of devotion was amazing! Coach G was speaking about David's life. He said, "If you asked God about your plans, he would laugh at you." He also talked about how David was a man after God's own heart, but still committed sins. He talked about the commandments that David broke such as coveting, stealing, adultery, and murder. God puts us through filters to get the final product or calling. After the devotion, we had a bonfire with some delicious s'mores! That night we played Romans and Christians again (still played wrong), and just sat outside of the cabin just talking.

The next morning after breakfast the volleyball team had to leave to come back to school to go to an away game. At camp, Mrs. Williams shared a devotion by the cross overlooking the forts and the ocean. She talked about how we are all worthy.

This trip made us realize that God is going to be with us no matter what. Our hearts were touched by God's Grace. Nothing could be better than this trip!



John 13:15-16 "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them".

High School News

New Buildings, New School Year

By: Mady Cannady

After waiting for ages, the new buildings have finally been completed! With closed roofs and nice air conditioning, we can finally learn in peace. The students were excited to come into the classrooms! There are many different classes that are learning many different things. Health class is learning about the skeletal system, muscles, and digestive system. Science is making fudge to learn how to convert different measurements. History is learning about the Middle East. Math is learning about algebra, geometry, midpoint, and distance. What a great start to the new school year!

Middle School News

Middle schoolers are excited to be in new buildings too! There is a lot of learning going on between those new walls. Mrs. Jones told us that her classes had a book tasting on Friday, Sept. 8. The students chose a book to read and then they created a food book report. In other words, the report was shaped like a food but the report included all the story elements. The students were able to see what their peers read, and were able to read about other books that might interest them.



Elementary School News

By: Gracyn Lee & Ella Clayton

Welcome to elementary school news! In this edition, Mrs. Rierson (Kindergarten) told us that her students are being so brave and praying out loud, as well as praying with one another. They are continuing to walk in a straighter line every day. First grade has been learning about apples. Moving forward a few grades, Mrs. Kimery informed us that the fourth and fifth graders are getting used to switching classes and they are learning to be great helpers using class jobs. The fifth graders are already excited for middle school! Do you want to know why? They want to play sports and learn more about science!



Preschool School News

By: Holden Boone and Emerson Keye

Welcome to Preschool! Mrs. Holmes (K4) class is learning about APPLES! The little ones are learning about big things! Mrs. Holmes' class is currently learning about the different shapes and their sizes, also about the number 2 and the letter U! They also made apple stamps and painted with them then painted plates to look like apples and made apple shakers to sing with. In Mrs. Holmes ' class she informed us that Tessa Burton is a great friend and a great helper, on the other hand all of her students learned how to count numbers in 6 different ways! Mrs. Evans informed us that K3 is also learning about apples and they tried them on August 30th to see which color of apple is their favorite! Preschool has also had Community Helpers Week. They had helpers from the community come to their classes to talk to them about their jobs.



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.

Habit of Grace: Friendship

By: Emma Lugo

Having a good character is an important part of life. It is also part of being a good person. Every month, GCA has a new character trait for the month, called "The Habit of Grace". This month, the Habit of Grace is friendship. We asked some of the students and staff around campus what friendship means to them. Mr. Bowman said that friendship to him is being loyal. "Sharing on the playground", is what Tessa Burton in Pre-K said friendship means to her. "Being kind to people and helping someone if they need it", is what friendship means to Madison Blackwell in 2nd grade. Anyone can be a good friend, just like them!



Mrs. Staley's class showing off their friendship bracelets.



Upcoming Events At Grace!

By: Ella Clayton

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

- October 13 No School For Students Teacher Workday
- October 19 9th and 10th grade field trip to the State Fair
- October 19 Community Chapel
- October 28 Grace Fall Festival at the Airport Campus
- October 31 Fall Fun Day Early Dismissal
- November 1 No School



October Lunch Menu



Word Search

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WORDS OF STAFF

By Elaine Austin, Adviser

The excitement in the Newspaper Class is contagious! I am thrilled about this year and the students' enthusiasm about sharing the Good News and Happenings of Grace Christian Academy. The staff is a wonderful group of eight with various interests and talents. This year's newspaper staff consists of two veteran staff members: Holden Boone and Emma Lugo and six new staff members: Mady Cannady, Ella Clayton, Caleb Cox, Emerson Keye, Gracyn Lee, and Nathan Ross. I am sure you will see them often around campus between 10-11:30am with their notebooks and cameras seeking out the exciting happenings at GCA!

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, <u>elaine.austin@gca-nc.com</u> or your newspaper staff contact.



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.