

Gifft Hill School Newsletter

February 10th, 2012



Good Day Parents:

The next seven days will be full of LOVE as well as exciting activities for every member of the family. This weekend is RELAY FOR LIFE, the marathon fundraiser for cancer research to be held on Winston Wells Field. Gifft Hill School has two teams participating who welcome your financial sponsorship. The team members are: Val Prakas, Jill Hale, Beth Knight, Colette Rethage, Elana Dandeneau, Debbie Bleyer, Mia Dixon, Jillian Dray, Meghan Duffy, Topher Dunlap, Laura Dunlap, Gina Glabach, Sarah Haynes, Melissa Irizarry, Alisa Gessner, Judy Chamberlain, Rosemary Richards, Joe Palminteri, Tansy Leiser, Tracy Thompson, Rich Walsh, Kellie Walters, Beth Jones, Lori Francis, Monica Morris, Angie Smith, Tracy Maish, Tina Martin, Kim Edwards, Delores Garcia.

Tuesday, of course, is Valentine's Day. Among the many ways our students will be celebrating are by exchanging valentines and raffling off that Great Yellow Jeep on the upper field. By the way raffle tickets are still available.

We have been asked by the organizers of 8 Tuff Miles to make sure that the GHS community knows that **only registered runners with a bib will be able to participate in the race**. For those of you who would like to experience the challenge of 8 Tuff Milles, there will be a 5.5 mile **Tune-up Run** Saturday February 11th at 7:00 am from Mongoose Junction to Bordeaux. The tune-up is FREE and all kids are invited. A parent must sign them in. Please arrive at 6:45 am.

GHS will send out the 2012-2013 re-enrollment forms next week. Recognizing what challenging financial times these are for all of us, we are changing our re-enrollment process and payment schedule for next year to create flexibility for you:

- March 1 – Signed Re-enrollment Contract with student and family data verification sheet is due to School Offices. **NO DEPOSIT IS REQUIRED**
- April 15 –FACTS Grant and Aid Assessment online application is due for those applying for tuition assistance.
- April 15 – Scholarship Application is due for those applying for Merit/Need-Based Scholarships.
- Approximately May 1 – Families with all paperwork completed will start receiving notice of awards for Scholarships and Tuition Assistance. Deadline for your acceptance of the award will be two weeks from the date of the letter.
- May 31 – Sign up with FACTS Tuition Management for Monthly/Quarterly/Semi Annual tuition payments. If you are already signed-up for FACTS, you will automatically be re-enrolled for the 2012-2013 school year.
- June 30 – This is the last date to terminate your 2012-2013 contract without penalty.
- July 1 – Invoices will be mailed, reflecting annual tuition and fees and the payment schedule plan you selected on your contract – less any Tuition Assistance and Scholarships received.
- July 5 or 20 – First tuition payment will be deducted from your bank account.

The School incurs expenses for the academic year throughout the summer – i.e. June order for materials and supplies and repairs, maintenance, utilities, and salaries that are paid year-round. We appreciate your continued support of GHS and look forward to next year with you and your child.

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CALENDAR: FEBRUARY

11 - Saturday

- 8 Tuff Miles Tune-up Run at 7am from Mongoose Junction to Bordeaux, 5.5 miles. It is FREE and all kids are invited. A parent must sign them in. Please arrive at 6:45.
- RELAY FOR LIFE: Tent set up – Volunteers needed 12:00-3:00 pm
- RELAY FOR LIFE: First Lap and Opening Ceremony 4:00 pm

12 – Sunday

- RELAY FOR LIFE: Last Lap and Closing 9:00 am

13 – Monday

- Boy Browne, Motivational Speaker – UC 2:15 pm

14 – Tuesday

- Valentine's Day

15 – Wednesday

- Jerry Harris, Jazz Musician – UC 10-10 am

17 – Friday

- School Closed – Presidents Day Weekend

20 – Monday

- School Closed – Presidents Day Weekend

21 – Tuesday

- K-3rd celebrates the 100th Day of School

24 – Friday

- Lower Campus Student of the Month Assembly 8:30 am. Dress as your favorite book character.
- Lower Campus – Pasta Lunch
- Middle School VIERS overnight for selected students

25 – Saturday

- Middle School Students return from VIERS

MARCH

9 – Friday

- Re-enrollment contract for the 2012-2013 school year due back

LOWER CAMPUS NEWS FROM MS. BETH

We are pleased with the students' responses to the three new additions to our after school program: Tuesday's soccer with professional soccer coach Mr. Dale, Wednesday's cooking class with Ms. Elana and Ms. Mia, and Thursday's think outside the box class with games and activities with Ms. Tansy. There is room for more students if your child would like to sign up.

We have found some interesting and fun Black History Month sites for young children www.factmonster.com and African American History for Kids at [http://urbanext.illinois.edu/bhm/history for kids.html](http://urbanext.illinois.edu/bhm/history%20for%20kids.html)

February is "I Love to Read Month" across North America. The celebration encourages reading, writing and sharing the joy of literacy. Reading opens the door to lifelong learning and enriches the lives of our children. Please come and volunteer to read a story to any of the classes at the lower campus this month. The students always enjoy and appreciate guest readers. Take some time to read every day to your children as a great way to spend quality time together and it will promote lifelong literacy, curiosity and wonder.

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Mr. Joe's hot pasta lunch was a big hit again today; the next hot lunch February 24th. Thanks, Mr. Joe.

Please remember that Giff Hill School has a no nit policy as regards to head lice and any students who have nits will be sent home. We all need to work together to eliminate this problem. Four step process to eliminate head lice:

1. Inspect your child's head for lice and nits
2. If necessary apply an approved head lice killing treatment
3. Remove lice and all nits
4. Eliminate all possible sources of re-infestation from your home

Use products approved for killing lice. These products are pyrethrin-based, are used on dry hair, **and require a second application after 7 days**. It is very important that you do the second treatment even if you think the nits are all gone. If you have any additional questions, please call.

UPPER CAMPUS NEWS FROM MS. JILL, MS. LIZ AND MS. MEGHAN

Wednesday was a busy day for middle and high school students. As part of our guest speaker series for Black History month, retired professional boxer and former three-time world champion, Julian Jackson, spoke to the students about determination, discipline, and rising above your circumstances to be the best you can be.

Three out of four Friends of the Park S.K.I.P. grants written and submitted by the 7th grade were funded! The funded projects include: a middle school scuba certification class, a learn-to-swim program, and a project to create audio tours for the 5 most popular hikes in the National Park. Students will begin working on these projects in the coming months.

The EARTH program is offering a one-time overnight weekend workshop at VIERS for any interested middle school student. The workshop will cover harvesting and cooking local edibles and will be held Friday, Feb. 24 and 25. Please contact Sarah Haynes if interested.

Talk has begun regarding implementing an annual 8th grade trip aboard the tall ship *Roseway*. This would be a 5-day residential experience for all 8th graders, focusing on team-building and an integration of math, science, social studies and literature skills in a real-life, hands-on maritime setting. Parents who are interested in discussing the value of such a program are encouraged to contact Ms. Liz Kinsella at lizkinsella@giffhillschool.org

Parents of seniors: REMINDER - please be sure to complete your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) as soon as possible. Both parents and students will need to apply for a "pin" through the FAFSA website first. Please visit www.fafsa.ed.gov. If you need any assistance, please call Ms. Meghan.

Enjoy your weekend,

Ms. Judy