

# Giff Hill School Newsletter

January 27, 2012



Good Day Parents:

As I write today's letter, the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade is hard at work at the Westin rehearsing for their "Broadway Comes to St. John" opening performances tonight, while Ms. Beth, Ms. Laura, Ms. Debbie, and Ms. Elana proudly support them from behind the scenes. They have now been at the Westin for two days perfecting roles and routines. Tonight promises to be a spectacular evening of song, dance and theater and I hope you will join us either at the special dinner performance starting at 6 pm or for the 2nd performance at 8 pm. Not only is this a terrific event for Giff Hill School, it is an important fundraiser for St. John School of the Arts to continue wonder mission to bring the arts to the children of St. John

Attached to today's newsletter you will find a survey to fill out that is designed to determine the menus that GHS students and parents would like to see in our lunch program. In December John Ferrigno orchestrated an incredible benefit at Zozo's Restaurant that raised \$33,000 toward the cost of constructing a kitchen at the Upper Campus. That amount combined with \$12,000 in previous contributions will allow us to move forward this winter with the design, permitting and build-out of the kitchen, while we continue to seek contributions of both used and new equipment. The plan is to have a full lunch program in place for the next school year with meals being prepared and served at the Upper Campus and delivered and served at the Lower Campus. I would appreciate your sitting down with your child(ren), filling out and returning the survey to the Upper and Lower Campus Offices by Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

We welcomed two new ISU EARTH interns this month, Kellie Irizarry and Melissa Walters. They have already made an impact on the health of our patio and terrace gardens. Their project for the spring semester is additional landscaping to the fronts of the Lower and Upper Campuses to improve the safety and aesthetics of the areas.

**Community service opportunities** - 9th-12th graders must complete 18 hours of community service each year in order to graduate from GHS and all students are encouraged to give of their time to our community. There are two new opportunities for service hours.

**Relay for Life** will be held on Feb 11-12. Service opportunities include setting up the luminarias, working the front gate, helping at the Relay store, and more! Students should see Ms. Meghan in the Upper Campus Office to sign up to volunteer.

**St. John Football Association** is looking for volunteers to help run the game clock, coach/mentor younger teams, help prepare the field for games, assist with fundraising efforts, and more! Students interested in volunteering should see Ms. Meghan to sign up!

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## CALENDAR

### JANUARY

27 – Friday

- **Broadway Comes to St. John** featuring 4<sup>th</sup> graders – Westin Hotel 6:00 & 8:00pm

### FEBRUARY

1 – Wednesday

- Black History Month Guest Speaker at Upper Campus – MS/HS 8:10 am
- Girls BB: IEKHS v. GHS @ IEKHS 4pm
- Boys BB: IEKHS v. GHS @ IEKHS 4 pm

2 –Thursday

- PTO Meeting – 3:30 pm Lower Campus Great Room
- Girls BB: CAHS v. GHS @ CAHS 4 pm
- Boys BB: CAHS v. GHS @ CAHS 4 pm

3- Friday

- Lunch Surveys due back to Lower/Upper Campus Offices

6 – Monday

- Community Service Fair – 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grades – Upper Campus 2:15 pm

8 – Wednesday

- Black History Month Guest Speaker at Upper Campus –MS/HS 9:05 am
- Girls BB: IEKHS v. GHS @ ANT pm
- Boys BB: ANT v. GHS @ ANT 4 pm

11 – Saturday

- **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

### LOWER CAMPUS NEWS FROM MS. BETH

A congratulations to all our January Student's of the Month: Keira Witbeck, Story Murphy, Noah Turner, Malena del Olmo, Ameila Ray, Lily Schutt, Ananda Hernandez, Nekhori Sprauve, Georgia Ferrigno, Alexandra Glabach, Lily Schutt, Naheem Modeste and Riley Edney.

We hope to see all of you tonight at the Broadway Comes to St. John at the Westin. The first performance is at 6:00 pm and the tickets for this are \$200.00 which includes a champagne reception and dinner. The second performance is at 8:00 pm and donations are requested. The children have done an incredible job rehearsing the past three weeks. You will be delighted by their energy and talent.

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We will let you know when the Student Profile Report for the Iowa tests has arrived. This report will give you as parents, an in depth analysis of your child's results. I have copies of the school report, which I am happy to go over with you in the meantime.

Please make sure the office knows of any changes in your child's transportation at dismissal time. We will be happy to assist in any changes that you request but we need for parents to inform the office. Thank you for your cooperation.

February is Black History Month and I Love to Read Month and we will be celebrating and incorporating both of these themes to enrich the student's understanding and knowledge from PS to 5<sup>th</sup> grades. Our older students will take part in some of the Upper School's Black History Month presentations as well.

Ms. Katie Zaytoun is the Executive Director of Dancing Classrooms and has announced that the program will run from March 26<sup>th</sup> to June 8<sup>th</sup>. It is GHS's third year participating and our fifth graders are anxious to participate in this popular and transforming program.

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

We will be holding our Student of the Quarter Assembly on Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at 2:15 pm. Second quarter Honor Roll students will be recognized. Parents are welcome to attend.

We are pleased to announce, under the supervision of Sarah Haynes, the EARTH program received a grant from the Friends of the Virgin Islands National Park to conduct a hands on wild edible workshop this spring at VIERS (Virgin Islands Environmental Research Station). Thanks to this grant and the coordination of VIERS, they will be able to offer an overnight adventure for interested EARTH students in this hands-on gathering and cooking of wild edible plants.

Doran Hamm, from NYET, has stayed on as at GHS as a high school elective teacher for 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. He will be teaching Improvisational Theater. Mr. Doran will also be working with Middle School Students during their Language Arts and Social Studies classes. John Lee is back again with us this semester, offering a music elective to middle school students.

**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](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). If you need any assistance, please call Ms. Meghan.

Seniors will be completing the Virgin Islands Board of Education Scholarship applications today with Ms. Meghan. There are many wonderful opportunities for additional grants, scholarships, and loans. Applications will be coming home for parent signature. Students should return completed applications to Ms. Meghan as soon as possible.

**Parents of juniors:** Please call Ms. Meghan to schedule a meeting with your junior to begin preliminary post-HS planning.

Enjoy your weekend, Ms. Judy