

Gift Hill School Newsletter

November 4th, 2011



Good Day, Parents,

I am sure that we are all looking forward to a quiet weekend to recover from all the excitement that Halloween and **CULTURALYPSO** brought to both campuses on Monday and Tuesday. What glorious events they were! On Monday the Upper Campus students enjoyed coming to the Lower Campus to watch their Parade and on both campuses the range and creativity of the costumes was truly worthy of academy awards! Later on that day, the afternoon parties provided a special kind of GHS magic. On Tuesday the teachers and students pulled out all the stops with the ingenious and inventive designs of the activities they shared with one another and our many guests at Culturalypso. Special thanks to the National Honor Society and Ms. Mary for their original puppet show depicting the life of D. Hamilton Jackson. Their performance gave us much valuable information about this important Virgin Islands social activist and political leader.

In our efforts to communicate with parents in as timely a way as possible we have set up the following weekly communications:

- Today and alternate Fridays – Newsletter from me including information from both campuses and an updated calendar.
- November 11 and alternate Fridays – News Briefs including reminders and an updated calendar
- Mondays – Barracuda News from Athletic Director Ms. Barbie

You may also expect monthly e-mails from Ms. Beth and Ms. Molly in the Development Office which will include photos of the kids doing interesting things, information about the Auction which is held in March and other fundraising appeals.

Progress Reports/Report cards will be mailed home today or Monday, November 7 depending on the grade level of the student. Please keep an eye out for your child(ren)'s report(s) and let us know as soon as possible if you have any questions or want to follow up with a meeting with a teacher.

GIFT HILL GIVES BACK DAY is Thursday, November 10. Permission slips have been sent home to explain exactly what activity your child(ren) will be involved in that day. If you would like to help with transportation that day with students in grades Preschool through 4th Grades, please let Molly Murrill in the Development Office know.

In coordination with the EARTH program, the Upper Campus Eco Club has started their recycling initiative by designating drop off locations throughout the school for the following: aluminum cans, plastic bottles, paper and cardboard.

- On the Upper Campus: cardboard should be broken down and placed under the stairs leading down to the lunch room; plastic bottles that will be cut and reused for starter plants can be dropped off beside the drink machine downstairs or beside Ms. Jen's room. Aluminum cans can be deposited into the blue bin in the lunch room or beside Ms. Colette's classroom; paper can be shredded for compost in the shredder located in the teachers' workroom.
- On the Lower Campus a blue bin for aluminum cans can be found outside Ms. Beth's office. Recycling for other products is in the works.

Thanks for your participation.

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NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR (Friday, Veterans Day – No School)

Tuesday, November 8, 3:30pm	Cross Country Meet – St. Thomas
Thursday, November 10	Giff Hill Gives Back Day in locations throughout St. John
Thursday, November 10, 2 pm	Pep Rally (pick up for students in K-12 at the Upper Campus)
Friday, November 11	Veterans Day – School Closed
Saturday, November 12, 3:45 pm	Flag Football v. JESS @ Home

Upper Campus News – Ms. Meghan, Ms. Jill, and Ms. Liz

We ask that parents dropping off and picking up students from the Upper Campus not park along the left side of the lot to allow the busses ample room to turn around. Signs will soon be posted to remind you.

Congratulations to the following students who were elected to serve as Student Council Officers: Coral Breuning, President; Jeanie Patrie, Vice President; Kaneeka Hodge, Treasurer and Makeda Dawson, Secretary.

The Eco Club, a sub division of Student Council, is officially up and running!! Meetings are held every Thursday during lunch on the upper patio. The clubs first initiatives will be recycling, a paper-free middle school and healthy lunch options. New members are encouraged to talk to Ms. Sarah to join!

Thank you to Uncle Stevie and the New England Youth Theatre for the week they spent preparing and auditioning students for the January production of *Godspell*. Full day practice will begin on January 2, one week before school is back in session from winter break. The following GHS students have been cast: Saalihah Ali, Gemmal Ashly, Maysonne Attika, Jackson Barry, Kaitlin Bleyer, Kristopher Bleyer, Shadiyah Boynes, Vela Culbert, Genesis Dawson, Lloyd Joseph, Alexa Kirby, Larisma Maduro, Garrett Myers, Alex Ray, Mariah Scheer, Zohar Sofer-Greer, John Spinale, Katelyn Vinson, and Landis Wallace. CONGRATULATIONS to all!!!

The SAT will be administered this Saturday, November 5.

Lower Campus News – Ms. Beth

In order to ensure the safety of our youngest students on field trips, we are asking parents to bring in their child's booster seat on field trip days. We really appreciate the two new booster seats donated to the school by Julie Lonski, Cruz's mom. Thank you, Julie! We are trying to have thirteen booster seats on hand at school. If you have an extra booster seat, it would be great if you would give it to the school.

Due to some technical problems we were unable to provide you last week with the names of the October "Students of the Month". Congratulations to: Preschool - Aysia Louis, Pre-K - Natalie Soto de Leon, Kindergarten - Dayen Smith-Webster, First grade - Winbourne Majette, Second/third grade-Adelaide Jones (and Spanish)- Fourth grade - Pablo David, Fifth grade - Grace Patrie, PE - Kayleigh Emanuelson, Art - Jada Jarvis, Computers - Cristian Rutnik and Lily Schutt.

The Kindergarten through third graders and their teachers are enjoying the various Montessori manipulatives that the Witbeck family has generously donated. Thanks so much!

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We believe in fostering open communications among GHS students, families and faculty. To facilitate this, Ms. Judy and I are organizing grade level parent meetings. We will notify you of the upcoming dates. Our first meeting yesterday was with our preschool parents and we thank all of you who were able to attend. The doors are always open, so you need not wait for a scheduled meeting if you would like to discuss anything.

The Rotary Club of St. John once again has provided the 4th and 5th grade students with wonderful planners which, from the feedback I have received, have helped immensely with organizational skills.

The Governor's Summer Reading Challenge participants will be going Saturday, November 5th on the Discovery Glass Bottom Boat. Have a great time... you earned it!

Hope you have a wonderful weekend.

Warmest regards,
Ms. Judy