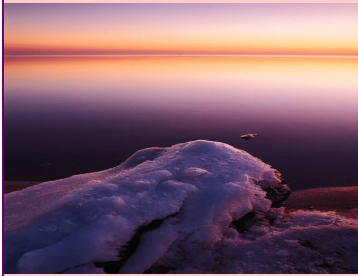


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LIVING GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Raising Champions

Principal's Message: The Purpose of Education

By Dr. Daniel Switzer

With the education of children, as with any great purpose, it is imperative to understand why we teach, both as parents and as teachers. Understanding God's rationale for education, including our purpose in ministering to children through teaching, is of utmost importance. In this piece I seek to share some thoughts on this very important purpose of our lives.



The Bible as Guidebook

God has given us the Bible to be our guidebook for life. The Bible shares timeless truths that, if applied, will result in blessing. They provide parents and teachers alike with purpose and motivation. Deuteronomy 6:4-9 provides a clear statement regarding our purpose as humans:

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. (NIV)

Our first calling is to teach our children and students to love God with every aspect of their being. When asked about the most important commandment, Jesus said that we are to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Likewise, teaching children should focus on these areas. A concern for the heart, for instance, would be to develop our children's commitment to worship the Lord with all of their heart. Regarding the soul, we can help our children to be decisive in serving God. With respect to the mind, we can counsel our young people to understand that the spiritual battle is won or lost in the thought realm; they must learn to take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Our children can learn to love God with all of their heart, soul, understanding, and strength as they play on their soccer team, study at school, or spend time with friends. A major part of helping children develop a love for the Lord is teaching them to give their all to him. Colossians 3:23 says, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men" (NIV).

Application during the School Day

As Deuteronomy 6 indicates, God's Word should be taught all day long to children: at the beginning of the day, during the day, and at the end of the day. We should look for opportunities to write God's principles on our children's hearts. At school, in all subjects (all day long), the students should receive an education that integrates the Bible and which continually points them toward a love for God and his Word.

This educational purpose is not something we should take lightly. The prime, waking hours of the school day are times of utmost importance in training our children. It's critical that we not give our children over to educational content and curricula that is not based upon God's Word during this time. As Deuteronomy 6 shares, we are to impress God's Word upon our children; indeed, our children by their very nature are very impressionable, meaning that they are easily impressed.

They are naturally trusting of what they are taught! Therefore, we need to be sure that our children are being taught according to the Word of God—in every subject area.

Inside This Issue:

- *Principal's Message*
- *Reminders*
- *Support & Prayer Needs*
- *Parent News*
- *Student Champions Fund Drive*
- *February Calendar*

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Supporting the Mission of Living Grace Christian School: Raising Up Champions for God

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (Eph. 2:8-10).

Please share with your friends about Living Grace Christian School, a school where the parents, teachers, and children work together in positive Biblical teamwork and relationship to raise up champions of God—servant leaders of godly character who advance the cause of Christ and make disciples of all nations. Living Grace Christian School is committed to Christian Discipleship, Academic Excellence, and Godly Character Development. Families are encouraged to apply for financial assistance based on need.

Please pray about supporting LGCS in the following ways:

1. Praying for the school.
2. Becoming a prayer partner—the school is committed to having consistent prayer support through seeking up to twelve prayer partners who agree to pray daily for the school.
3. Helping families who cannot pay the full tuition to send their children to the school through the “Student Champions Fund.” We are committed to a ministry philosophy of “ministry over money” in which no family is excluded from the school due to financial hardship. Checks should be made out to Living Grace Christian School with “Student Champions Fund” written in the memo.
4. **Supporting the long-term establishment of the school through the “Living Grace Christian School Endowment Fund.” Contributions to this fund support the building of the expanded facility. Checks should be made out to Living Grace Christian School with “Endowment Fund” written in the memo. Also, we ask you to invite family and friends to give toward your child’s school expansion. Gifts can be made online at lgcs.northgateecc.org—click on “Endowment Fund-Building Expansion.”**
5. Providing volunteer help at the school.

If you desire to help in any of these ways, please feel free to call or email Dr. Switzer.

Prayer Needs

As stated above, the school is committed to having consistent prayer support through seeking twelve prayer partners who agree to pray daily for the school. If you would like to be a designated prayer partner, please talk to Dr. Switzer. Obviously, we encourage everyone to be praying for the school—parents, teachers, students, and extended family.

Please pray for the following significant areas:

1. The spiritual life of all parents, teachers, and students, that our relationships with the Lord would be grace-filled and marked by integrity.
2. That parents, teachers, students, and Northgate congregants work together in positive Biblical teamwork and unified relationship.
3. Effective leadership and teaching, and a commitment to Christian discipleship, academic excellence, and godly character development.
4. Walking out our comprehensive plan for parent participation: pray that the teachers would effectively communicate with parents, be receptive and accessible to them, and treat them as partners in the educational process.
5. God’s provision for families, including financial and transportation needs.
6. Parents as they fulfill the role as their child’s primary teachers. Pray that parents would “reserve judgment” when their children give them a negative report about a school situation until they have the opportunity to talk with the respective teacher.
7. Growth in godly character, excellent study habits, godly relationships, and prosperous health and safety for the student body.
8. Pastors and the larger Body of Christ to increasingly see the need to educate their children in a manner consistent with their Biblical beliefs.
9. Volunteers to help in the classrooms, office, and building.
10. Consistent financial support to help needy families to be able to send their children to the school through the “Student Champions Fund.”
11. The families of all the teachers, parents, and students.
12. That these children would know that God has a plan for their lives; that God would raise up these children to be champions of God—servant leaders of godly character who advance the cause of Christ and make disciples of all nations!

Thank you for your prayers!



The Purpose of Education

(continued from page 1)

Discipleship toward a Grace-Filled Relationship with Christ

Moreover, Christ's Great Commission, one of the most significant purposes of life, provides us with mission for education. In Matthew 28:19-20, Christ called us to make disciples and to teach them to obey his commands. Surely our children should be our first disciples. They need to be continually challenged to draw near to Christ in a grace-filled relationship.

This relationship with him is cultivated through prayer, Biblical devotions, worship, and faith as they grow in understanding their position in Christ and in becoming aware of the Lord's presence in their lives. As we teach our children to obey God's Word, we are training them in godly character. As Christ encouraged us in His Great Commission, we need to remember that God is with us as we disciple our children and gives us everything we need for this great purpose.

The Nature of Education

Webster's 1828 Dictionary (Noah Webster's first dictionary) defines the word *education* as "the bringing up, as of a child," which implies training. Webster also stated regarding children's education: "to give them a religious *education* is indispensable; and an immense responsibility rests on parents and guardians who neglect these duties." Education is fundamentally religious because there is always a belief system behind the material taught as well as behind the one doing the teaching! Moreover, parents have been given the God-ordained role and responsibility to train up their children (Proverbs 22:6). Therefore, the school's purpose is to partner with parents in fulfilling their responsibility before God.

God calls young people to remember their Creator while they are young (Ecclesiastes 12:1). At the end of the book of Ecclesiastes, the teacher, after making an observation regarding the futility of "many books" and "much study," concludes that man's purpose is to "fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man" (NIV, Ecc. 12:12-13). God's two greatest commandments have to do with loving God and loving others—surely education in all of its various components should ultimately find its purpose in such an end.

February's Godly Character Trait: Thankfulness

As we pray for our children and the school, I encourage you to refer to the "Prayer Needs" as given in this edition of *Raising Champions*. Lift up the preparation for the Parent-Teacher Assembly on February 5th. Pray that our teamwork and communication with one another will be pleasing to the Lord and be helpful for our children's growth as godly champions. Finally, pray for the parents and students as we raise funds during our two-month "Student Champions Fund Drive." Our goal is to raise \$16,000 to help needy families to be able to partner with us to raise up their children to be champions for Christ.

During the month of February, we are focusing on the godly character trait of thankfulness. With our focus on the disciples' prayer, we have reached the clause that says, "Give us this day our daily bread." Of course, we need to train our children to be grateful for the Lord's provision in our lives. Psalm 34:8-10 encourages us, "Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him. Fear the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing. The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing." **As parents, we need to train our children to fear the Lord and honor Him first. As we do so, we—and our children—will lack no good thing. And then we need to train them to be thankful to the Lord for providing our every need.** Let's live by example and encourage our children to honor the Lord and to give Him thanks for His blessings. May God's grace and peace be with your family!

Reminders

PARENT-TEACHER ASSEMBLY ON FEBRUARY 5th

The parent-teacher assembly will be held on Thursday, February 5th, at 7:30 p.m. This is one of the four team meetings for the year. **Essential information about the school's future will be shared at this very important meeting.** We will be blessed to have our student worship team lead us in praising our God. In addition, we will be edified as parents and teachers in our call to teach our children. Also, registration packets for next school year will be given at this meeting. **Please make plans ahead of time for your children as we are not able to have child care for this meeting.**

TUITION PAYMENTS TO SMART

Please remember that tuition payments are paid directly to the Smart Tuition Management Company. Tuition payments are due to Smart by the fifth of each month, August to May.

COLD WEATHER

Students go outside for recess whenever possible. With the colder weather, please be sure your child is dressed warmly. On Tuesdays and Thursdays (P.E. days), students should continue to wear their P.E. uniform consisting of their blue t-shirt and gray sweatpants and gray sweatshirt. (Students may wear a coat over their p.e. uniform.) The regular school uniform is worn by students on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.



SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS AND DELAYS

Living Grace Christian School follows the Montgomery County Public School system in determining school closings and delays because of inclement weather. Announcements regarding closings and delays will be broadcast on WJLA-TV ABC 7, News Channel 8, and posted on the www.wjla.com and www.news8.net websites. If there is a two-hour delay, morning-only kindergarteners are excused from school.





Parent News

INVITE FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO REGISTER CHILDREN FOR NEXT SCHOOL YEAR!

We encourage you to share with family and friends about Living Grace Christian School. Share your own testimony about what God is doing with your child. We seek to be a school where the parents, teachers, and children work together in positive Biblical teamwork and relationship to raise up champions of God. We are committed to Christian Discipleship, Academic Excellence, and Godly Character Development. Also, families are encouraged to apply for financial assistance based on need.

REENROLLMENT PERIOD THROUGH MARCH 28th

The period for reenrollment is from February 6th through March 31st. The reenrollment form will be distributed at the Parent-Teacher Assembly. If you have any questions, please feel free to talk with Dr. Switzer. We strongly encourage you to reenroll your children by March 31st. If you reenroll by March 31st, the family registration fee is \$80. After March 31st, the family registration fee is \$130. Open enrollment to families presently outside the school begins on March 31st. All of our school's classes are already at or near capacity; please do not hesitate to enroll and find that your child may have to be put on a waiting list. We want all of our families to return for next school year!

Student Champions Fund Drive Continues Until March 11th

We are asking all of the school families to make a generous contribution to the Student Champions Fund Drive. The drive ends March 11th. Many of our school's families receive financial assistance to be able to send their children to the school. **The Student Champions Fund is designed to help parents who cannot pay the full tuition to be able to send their children to the school.** Many schools have fundraisers that can take up a lot of time and effort on the part of the family such as candy and fruit sales. Instead of involving you in these kinds of efforts, we are asking you to consider the value of this fund for its own merit. Therefore, we ask you to give generously to this fund as well as ask family and close friends to make a donation.

Please have your children make calls to family and friends to make contributions for this very worthy cause. Have your child bring in the donations envelope each Wednesday. Each student that raises at least \$250 (per family) will receive the reward of the All-You-Can-Eat Pizza Party with Dr. Switzer.

Our goal this year is to raise \$16,000 for the purpose of helping needy families to be able to send their children to the school. All funds contributed toward this fund will be used for this sole purpose. Thank you for prayerfully considering this offering as unto the Lord. So far we have raised over \$3,100. Your efforts are very much appreciated!

February 2015

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1	2 Home Bball Game 3:45	3	4 Champions Donation Envelope Due	5 Parent-Teacher Assembly 7:30 PM *Team Meeting for All Parents*	6 Bball Game 4:00 at Friends	7
8	9	10	11 Champions Donation Envelope Due	12	13 Home Bball Game 4:00	14
15	16 PRESIDENTS DAY NO SCHOOL	17 Home Bball Gm 3:45	18 Champions Envelope Due	19	20 Bball Game at FCA	21
22	23	24	25 Champions Envelope Due	26 Midterms Come Home	27 Staff Development No School	28

"For I know the plans I have for you . . . plans to give you hope and a future" (Jer. 29:11).

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