



March 2016

LIVING GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Raising Champions

Principal's Message: Teaching the Golden Rule to Our Children

By Dr. Daniel L. Switzer

One of the five standards of Living Grace Christian School is "Treat Others the Way You Want to Be Treated." This standard is taken from Luke 6:31 and is known as the Golden Rule: "Do to others as you would have them do to you" (NIV). The Golden Rule cannot be emphasized enough with our children. The philosophy that so often exists in the world is an evolutionary, survival-of-the-fittest mentality – basically, a "dog-eat-dog" perspective toward getting ahead in life. Instead of treating others the way that they treat us, God calls us to treat others the way we would want to be treated. Based on God's sowing and reaping principle of life, if our children consistently sow seeds of kindness and friendship toward others, eventually they will reap the harvest of kindness and friendship returning to them. Helping our children learn how to treat others is a very important point of emphasis in their character development.



How do we apply the Golden Rule in the training of our children? This principle for life should be continually emphasized in the home. As parents, Silvia and I like to come up with short Biblical sayings as we train and discipline our children. Sayings such as "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:3) help to focus our children's attention on a character issue. (I sometimes say "Let's keep an attitude of peace" to remind our children how they are to relate to their siblings.) Of course, another saying that I often find helpful to emphasize is "Let's treat each other the way we would want to be treated." Helping children consider how they would want to be treated will provide them with instruction on how they should treat siblings, friends, neighbors, fellow students, their elders, and indeed, everyone they encounter in life.

The Golden Rule has many applications. When we need to discipline our child because he has hurt another child, we can exhort him to walk according to the Golden Rule by asking questions such as, "Would you want someone to hit you?" After your child says, "No," you emphasize, "Then don't hit your brother."

Many applications could be made as you question your child according to the Golden Rule: "Would you want someone to call you names or put you down?" "Would you want someone to gossip about you and tell others bad things about you?" "Would you want someone to grab your toy from you?" "Would you want someone to spit at you?" "If you were a teacher, would you want one of your students to be disrespectful toward you?" "If you were preparing a meal for others, would you want one of them to say they didn't like the food?" The Golden Rule should be a continual point of emphasis in the home, especially as we seek to help our children learn how to treat others.

Inside This Issue:

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

(Article continued on page 3)

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.northgatecc.org—click on “Endowment Fund-Building Expansion.”**
5. Providing volunteer help at the school.



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. Excellent study habits, godly relationships, and prosperous health and safety for the entire 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!**



Teaching the Golden Rule to Our Children

(continued from page 1)

A big area in how children treat one another is in the use of the tongue. The Bible says that the tongue “is a restless evil, full of deadly poison” (James 3:8). One of the Scriptures that I often repeat to the students is that of Ephesians 4:29: “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.” For us as parents, we can emphasize simple phrases such as “No unwholesome talk” or “Wholesome talk” or “Only encouraging words”; in the process, our children learn this life principle.

The Bible says that the tongue has the power of life and death. I want to encourage us to hold our children to a high standard in the use of our tongues as we seek to walk by the Golden Rule. Please emphasize this principle with your children.

Our commitment at Living Grace is that the school would be a place of safety, security, and encouragement. We want it to be a safe and secure environment so that students can focus on learning. That way they are free from negative distractions and are able to learn to the maximum of their potential! Likewise, we desire that the school be a place of encouragement where only edifying words come from the teachers and from fellow students so that the students may be built up to know their position in Christ and God’s great plan for their lives! Let’s partner as teachers and parents to make sure that this message of treating others the way we want to be treated and of using our words for the sole purpose of building up others – never tearing them down – is written upon our children’s hearts and minds!

Godly Character Trait for March: Expressing Gratitude through Contentment

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*. I also ask you to pray for the health of the entire school body as we continue through the winter. Lift up the students and the teachers as we finish the third quarter, including studying for end-of-quarter tests and preparation of report cards.

During the month of March, we are focusing on the character quality of expressing gratitude through contentment. Colossians 3:15-17 exhorts us, “Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.” I encourage us as parents to seek to inculcate this attitude of gratitude – as opposed to complaining – in our children and young people. It’s a worthy goal made possible through the Holy Spirit! May God’s grace be with you and your families!

Reminders

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 through May.

COLD WEATHER

Students go outside for recess whenever possible. With the cold weather, please be sure that 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. 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

CALL TO GROW/ROOM TO GROW BUILDING

EXPANSION PLEDGES! We now have about sixty-one units! We encourage each family to honestly consider before the Lord what they can contribute toward this project. Remember that giving toward this vision of raising up champions for decades to come is laying up eternal treasure. You will be rewarded a hundredfold! Please consider giving a regular pledge toward this great work.

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 22nd

We strongly encourage you to reenroll by March 22nd to avoid having your children placed on a waiting list. Reenrollment forms were distributed at the Parent-Teacher Assembly. If you have any questions, please feel free to talk with Dr. Switzer. If you reenroll by March 22nd, the family registration fee is \$80. After March 22nd, the family registration fee is \$130. Open enrollment to families outside the school begins on March 23rd.

Champions Fund Drive Finishes March 9th!

Please make a generous contribution to the Student Champions Fund Drive. It ends March 9th. 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.** This is a very worthy cause—our families and students!

Please have your children make calls to family and friends to make donations for this important fund. 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 about \$6,500! Your efforts are very much appreciated.



March 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Champions Dona-	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Last Champions Donation Envelope	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 Reenrollment Form Due	23	24 End of 3rd Quarter Teacher In-Service	25 Spring Break No School	26
27	28 Spring Break No School	29 Spring Break No School	30 Spring Break No School	31 Spring Break No School	April 1 Spring Break No School	

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

LIVING GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

20300 Pleasant Ridge Drive, Montgomery Village, MD 20886-4016 | 301-840-9830 | email: dnslvs@aol.com | website: www.lgcs.northgatecc.org