

LIVING GRACE
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
20300 Pleasant Ridge Drive
Montgomery Village, MD
20886-4016

Phone: 301-840-9830
e-mail: dnslvs@aol.com
www.lgcs.northgatecc.org



November 2016

LIVING GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Raising Champions

Principal's Message: Parents Partnering with Teachers

By Dr. Daniel Switzer

At Living Grace Christian School, our vision statement includes the clause that "parents partner with the school's staff. . . ." This partnership between the parents and the teachers is critical in order for our school to work effectively. I continue to be impressed by the consistency of parents keeping their children on track with their studies. In addition, I am pleased with the number of parents helping out the teachers with tasks such as checking math books in the morning and volunteering in the classroom, both practical ways of partnering with the teachers to help our students receive an excellent education.



Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 says, "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken" (NIV).

This passage speaks of the importance of teamwork, or of what we call partnership. Not much in the Kingdom of God is accomplished by the lone warrior. Although God can do much through a person who has wholly surrendered to the Lord, often that person works in tandem with other people. We work in partnership with others to accomplish God's purposes. As we work together, we are able to lift each other up. **In the school setting, we see the unbreakable, three-stranded cord in our children's lives as the parents, the church, and the school. As these three godly influences are in right order and relationship, our children will be raised up to be champions for Christ.**

As I alluded to earlier, at Living Grace Christian School we call you as parents to keep your children on track with their studies. There are certain tools that we use at school in order to enable this kind of practical partnership so that our students can keep progressing forward instead of falling behind. These tools enable you to help your children at home and to stay on top of their studies. You are able to talk with them about specific assignments, to encourage them, and to hold them accountable in a timely manner before it is too late. In other words, we give you as parents the tools you need to help your children succeed academically and grow in godly character. These tools relate to the value of having open communication between teachers and parents.

The Assignment Book

I am a firm believer in "writing things down." The students at Living Grace Christian School are trained and held accountable in this principle through writing their assignments each morning into their assignment books. This enables teachers and parents to work together to ensure that their children have completed their work satisfactorily. When a student has to be absent, a

Inside This Issue:

- Partnering with Parents
- Reminders
- Support & Prayer Needs
- Parent News
- November 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 Living Grace Christian School 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 school 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!**





Parents Partnering with Teachers

(continued from page 1)

student can call another student and easily get the assignments because we know that the assignments have been written down accurately. I recall when my son Caleb was out sick for a couple of days; he called a parent of one of his classmates and asked her for the assignments from her daughter's assignment book. He was able to get the assignments quickly and easily. Of course, we were grateful to this family for their help. In our school, students are able to get their assignments from one another when they are out sick, and parents can be confident that they have the right assignments.

Weekly Teacher Email

The weekly teacher email is another tool that speaks of open communication. Besides the fact that parents can come in and talk with the teacher before or after school and have a reasonable expectation that they will be able to share or get the information that they need, each teacher also sends an electronic mail to the parents each Monday to share about the week and to encourage parents to interact with their child on a specific learning assignment. Of course, parents may reply to the email and communicate with the teacher as necessary.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

On November 22nd, we will have our first parent-teacher conferences of the year. These team meetings are exactly that—team meetings: the opportunity to partner together as teachers and parents for our children's continued encouragement and growth. I often say, "There are no magical solutions for children receiving a great education." It's only through parents and teachers working hard and working together through excellent communication that our children will be educated and raised up to be the champions God is calling them to be. These conferences are invaluable times of two-way communication so that our children can continue to progress in areas of academics, godly character, and Christian discipleship. As we can see, working at communication is critical to the partnership required to achieve the mission God has given us. **Parents, my heartfelt exhortation is to use the tools that we provide you to work with your children.** I encourage you to take full advantage of our commitment to partner with you in practical ways in order for our children to become the champions God is calling them to be!

November's Godly Character Trait: Generosity

As we pray for our children and the school, I encourage you to refer to the "Prayer Needs" in this edition of *Raising Champions*. Please pray for excellent communications at the end of the first quarter, particularly with our parent-teacher conferences. Pray for the teachers as we prepare the report cards. Also, please lift up those fifth through eighth graders participating in the ACSI Spelling Bee and for the field trips occurring this month.

During November, we are focusing on the trait of Generosity along with God's name of Jehovah Jireh – The Lord provides. Philippians 4:19 shares with us His great promise of provision for all who honor Him: "And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." As we understand more and more how generously the Lord has given to us through the riches of His GRACE, we and our children will increasingly grow in the GRACE of being generous to others. God's GRACE be with you!

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.

COLDER WEATHER

As the weather gets colder, please be sure that your child is dressed warmly. Students continue to go outside for recess and physical education. On Tuesdays and Thursdays (P.E. days), students should continue to wear their P.E. uniform consisting of their blue t-shirt and all-gray sweatpants and all-gray sweatshirt. The regular school uniform is worn by students on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. **Please label your child's name on all external clothing items.**

END OF FIRST QUARTER

Believe it or not, we are fast approaching the end of the first quarter, which is Friday, November 11th. There will be no school on that day. Teachers will be working on grades and preparing report cards. **Report cards will be sent home on Friday, November 18th.**

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

In order to ensure strong two-way communication, we have parent-teacher conferences. These will be held on Tuesday, November 22nd. Both parents are encouraged to attend. This conference is one of the school's four team meetings. The conference times have been sent home to you with your child. If you cannot make your designated time for the conference, please be sure to talk with the teacher ahead of time to arrange an alternative time for that day. These are important times in which teachers and parents work together to address areas needing improvement as well as to provide students with specific encouragement.

DOORS OPEN AT 8:00 A.M.

Remember that the doors open at 8:00 in the morning. For the sake of your children's safety, please do not drop off your children before 8:00 a.m. Thank you!

Parent News

Farm Field Trip

The kindergarten, first, and second graders had a wonderful field trip to the Summer's Farm in Frederick. Students got to know more about farm animals, slid down hills, navigated various mazes, and bounced on oversized "pillows." Students also harvested a personal pumpkin. Thank you to Mrs. Perez and Mrs. Robinson for planning the trip. Also, we want to thank all of the parents who drove and helped to chaperone the trip.

School Picture Day

We had a wonderful School Picture Day on Wednesday, October 12th. If you are interested in ordering your children's pictures, please email Mrs. Perez at tessben@yahoo.com; she will send you an email explaining how you can order your children's pictures.

ACSI District Spelling Bee

The following fifth through eighth graders will be representing our school in the ACSI District Spelling Bee on Monday, November 7th: Emily Parr, Nehemiah Switzer, Josué Escalante, José Camacho-Saenz, R.J. Davis, Yohana Tewodros Michael, Deborah Ankomah-Holdbrook, and John (Tre) Phillips III. Please pray that our students will work hard to master their words, relax, spell to the best of their ability, and enjoy the fellowship with other students.



November 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Sports Club Begins	4	5
6	7 ACSI Spelling Bee (Applicable Students Grades 5-8)	8	9	10	11 End of 1st Quarter Teacher In-Service NO SCHOOL	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 Report Cards Issued	19
20	21	22 Half Day: Dismissal at Noon P-T Conferences (Team Meeting for All Parents)	23 TG Break NO SCHOOL	24 Happy Thanksgiving!	25 TG Break NO SCHOOL	26
27	28	29	30			

"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 | lgcs.northgatecc.org