

Grace Christian Elementary School Newsletter

June 2010

June Calendar.....

Tuesday, 6/1	Detention Girl Scout Meeting – 2:30-3:15 PM, Room 203 & 206
Wednesday, 6/2	South Coast Repertory Field Trip – Grade 2*
Thursday, 6/3	“Heart for Jesus” Awards – 8:30 AM, Amphitheater Presidential Physical Fitness Award Assembly – 8:30 AM, Amphitheater* Kid Fit – Fun and Fitness Class, 2:30-3:30 PM
Friday, 6/4	Tessmann Planetarium Field Trip – Grades 3 & 4* Minimum Day – School Ends at 12:00 PM
Monday, 6/7	Kid Fit – Fun and Fitness Class, 2:30-3:30 PM
Tuesday, 6/8	Detention
Thursday, 6/10	Microsoft Store Field Trip – Grades 3 & 4* PTO Meeting – School Library, FREE Childcare Provided* Kid Fit – Fun and Fitness Class, 2:30-3:30 PM
Monday, 6/14	Kid Fit – Fun and Fitness Class, 2:30-3:30 PM
Tuesday, 6/15	Detention
Sunday, 6/20	Happy Father’s Day!
Monday, 6/21	School Uniform Swap Meet* Free Dress Day!
Tuesday, 6/22	Detention Water Play Day, Special Dress – Beach Attire*
Wednesday, 6/23	End of Third Trimester Field Day, Special Dress – Athletic Attire*
Thursday, 6/24	Last Day of School, Minimum Day – 12:00 PM Free Dress Day! Yearbooks Passed Out, Student Signing – 11:30 AM*
Friday, 6/25	PTO End-of-the-Year Family Camp Out*

Sneak Peek at the New School Year.....

Tuesday, 8/31	NEW FAMILY ONLY Orientation – 7:00 PM**
Wednesday, 9/1	“Meet the Teacher” – 9:00-10:00 AM **
Thursday, 9/2	First Day of School, 8:30 AM Extended Care Begins, 2:30-5:30 PM**
Sunday, 9/12	All School/Church Picnic – 12:00-4:00 PM**
Thursday, 9/16	Parent-Only Back to School Night – 6:30-8:00 PM**

***More Information and/or Flyer with This Newsletter **More Information Coming In August**

From the desk of.....Chris Elston, June 2010.

Well, a surprise to be hearing from me, as I don’t usually write in the newsletter, but this month is special. This month I am saying “Good-bye” to my desk and position of Office Manager at Grace Christian Schools. It has been a “good-run,” and I know I will miss this wonderful school more than I realize today. I have been here at Grace for 13 years, and I know, for sure, it is time to move on. I am passing the baton to Kim Wininger, who is far more qualified to oversee the running of the office than I ever was. When she came here to help out a couple years ago, we got a real treasure. It was even then that I knew she was here, not only for the school, but to be my replacement. That she is, but even more.....Kim, aka “Meena” has fresh ideas and visions that I know I used to have, but with the current circumstances in my life, it is hard to keep up with. Of course, Merideth Williamson and Toni Cuffari are in the Office as well, and they will all team up to continue the wonderful service and ministry that our school is known for. I know Sandi, Julie, our staff, and our families are in good hands with such a wonderful support team in the office. There won’t even be a “blip” on the screen.

Many of you have asked me what I am going to do with all my time. I sure don’t have all those answers, but I am excited to find out. One thing in my life, that is taking much of my time and attention, is my Mom. My Dad passed away 2 years ago, and my husband and myself are my Mom’s main caretakers in all areas of her life. It is a real challenge to do that well and have such responsibilities here. With that, getting back into Bible Study, gardening, cooking, and hopefully, getting into shape (sitting at a computer 5-6 days a week for 13 years does wonders for the figure). Dawnell Violen, here I come! Just go slow with me to start, please.

I know so many of you and have had the absolute privilege to serve you over and over and over the years. I will miss this place and the wonderful ladies here, and yet, I really am excited to see what the Lord has in store for me. **“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11.** That was our family verse, and it sure seems appropriate for me today.....God bless you all!!

“All the Facts” For You.

- For the entire 2009/2010 School Year Calendar, go to www.gracechristianschools.org. Changes and/or updates are immediately posted. From the school website, click “Elementary Forms & Links,” then click “Elementary Calendar” to access our interactive web calendar. Once open, you may click the “Agenda” tab, at the top of the calendar, for a more detailed view.
- Spread the word about our wonderful school! **Elementary Tours/Observations** continue with tours, available Monday – Friday, 9:00-10:00 AM. If you have friends or neighbors who are interested in taking a tour, have them contact Kim, in the School Office, at 949-951-8683, Ext. 102. Information packets are available in the School Office. **We do offer a \$225.00 referral credit, toward next year’s tuition, for each Grace Christian Preschool enrolled family you refer. A \$1,000.00 referral credit will apply to any current Elementary School family referring a new non-GCS (not coming from the Preschool) family, who enrolls a student(s) in our Elementary School. Referral credits are applied to your child’s tuition once the new family’s Registration Fee is paid in full.**
- At Grace Christian Elementary School, we are committed to building character in our students. Each student will receive a “**Heart for Jesus**” Award throughout the school year. The following students were recognized, and honored, for the month of May: Gabrielle Loomis – joyfulness, Slater Whittaker – Creativity, Simeon Brewer – Leadership, Abbey Freese – Diligence, Luke Rozinkas – Enthusiasm, Ryder Greyshock – Generosity, Nicholas Violen – Courageous. *“...Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven.” Matthew 5:13*
- The **Scholastic Book Fair** was a HUGE success thanks to the wonderful job Lisa Watson did in running the Fair and to all of you who so generously supported it by volunteering and buying books!! The school will receive over \$4,000.00 worth of books for our School resources. A special thanks to Meredith Barr, Marcy Cox, Julie Freese, Flora Guldalian, Cathy Lazarus, Michele McIntosh, Bobbi Nyce, Lisa Rozinkas, Dawnell Schroeder, Tracey Shell, Lori Shinkle, and Charlene Yuen for volunteering their time to help out at this year’s Book Fair!!
- Congratulations to Ryder Greyshock, Kaylie Hilliker, Jacqueline Majors, Andrew McIntosh, Shelby Mitchell, Miranda Moore, Nathan Shell, Madison Templeman, Shea Whittaker, and Slater Whittaker who participated in the **ACSI Art Festival** last month. Excellent awards were given to all our students, and Slater Whittaker, in Mrs. Alvarez’ Kindergarten class, received a Judges Choice Award! Also, for the month of June, Miss Power and Mrs. Yancey’s students will have their art work on display at the School Credit Union in Rancho Santa Margarita. You can pick your child’s art work up at the School Office in July. Good work everyone! Mrs. Bettwy is so proud of all her young, aspiring artists here at Grace Christian Elementary School!!
- Current **Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment Forms** were due Thursday, May 27. If you haven’t turned in your child’s assessment form, please drop it by the School Office today. If you have further questions, please call Kim, in the School Office, at 949-951-8683 ext. 102.
- Mrs. Frey’s Second Grade Class will attend a field trip on Wednesday, June 2, to the **South Coast Repertory, for the production of “Ben and the Magic Paintbrush.”** Students need to wear school uniform. We are scheduled to arrive back to the school for lunch. Mrs. Frey needs drivers/chaperones. Please contact her if you are available to attend.
- The **Presidential Physical Fitness Award Assembly** will be held in the School Amphitheatre, Thursday, June 3, beginning at 8:30 AM. The assembly will be held immediately after flag ceremony, prayer, and “Heart for Jesus” awards. Dawnell Violen, our P.E. Teacher, will be presenting each student with his/her Award(s). Parents are invited to stay and see the children receive their awards.
- On the road again!! **Mrs. Timpani’s Third and Fourth Grade classes are scheduled for a field trip to Tessmann Planetarium, on the campus of Santa Ana College, Friday, June 4.** The students are to wear their Grace T-shirt and jeans. Please have your child at the school by 8:30 AM. We will be back on campus before early dismissal due to minimum day.
- **On Thursday, June 10, Mrs. Timpani’s Third and Fourth Grade classes will travel to the Microsoft Store in Mission Mall.** The boys and girls will get to participate in “Movie Magic Experience,” where they capture and edit their own movie. Each student is given a Flip Video Camera to capture video of their choice. They will then learn how to edit their videos by adding transitions, music and special effects. Students will film, edit, and create a movie while there, and at the end of the session, they get to play their masterpieces for the entire class. We will leave GCS at 1:00 PM, and parents will pick their child up at the Microsoft Store, at 4:00 PM. We will need parent drivers/chaperones. See Mrs. Timpani if you are able to drive.
- The **June PTO Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 10, beginning at 9:00 AM, in the School Library, Room 211.** The school year may be winding down, but the PTO still has FUN family activities to come. Join us as we wrap up plans for the annual End-of-the-Year Family Campout!! For your convenience, FREE childcare is provided upstairs in Room 203. Hope to see you there!
- We have set aside Monday, June 21, for a **School Uniform Swap Day.** The Swap will be set up for you to Buy/Sell/Donate/Trade your gently-used uniform pieces from 9:00-10:00 AM and 2:00-3:00 PM, in the Chapel Room, 112. Stacy Clark will be overseeing this great event. Attached, to this Newsletter, you will find more information, along with the paperwork you need to fill out and turn in with the uniform pieces you are selling. You can e-mail Stacy at stacylynclark@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

- On Tuesday, June 22, 12:30-2:30 PM, we will transform the School Playground for **Beach Day!** Water play activities, fun in the sand, and ICE CREAM are just a few of the fun things planned. Did I mention a “BIG SURPRISE” that Mrs. Brakebush has planned. I can’t tell you what it is...you will just have to wait and see!! ☺ It’s a free-dress day, so have your child(ren) wear beachwear, with a bathing suit underneath. Flip flops are ok, and don’t forget sunscreen and a towel! What is water play without a good water balloon fight!! We do need parent volunteers to help! In order to have water balloons, we would need parents to step up and offer to bring filled balloons to the school by 12:30 PM. Please let Kim, in the School Office, know ASAP if you can help at school on that day and/or bring water balloons. Thank you!!
- **Field Day** will be held on Wednesday, June 23, 12:30-2:30 PM. The theme this year is “Fun at the Beach.” Students must wear tennis shoes and dress in comfortable, athletic clothing. Please apply sunscreen as they will be outside. Dawnell Viole will have fun events for the students including games and relays. Ice water will be provided. Dawnell needs parent volunteers. If you can help, please call her at 949-939-0021.
- **Grace Community Church’s Vacation Bible School** will be held this summer, July 19-23, 9:00-12:30 PM, for all students who will be in grades Kindergarten through 6th Grade in the fall 2010. VBS is run completely by volunteers. The Church is currently accepting registration for adult volunteers. If you volunteer, your child is guaranteed a spot. Student Registration is underway and spaces fill quickly. For more information, please call the Church Office directly, 949-581-4248.
- A BIG round of applause for the **2009/10 School Yearbook** team, directed by Cindy Werelius, for their MANY hours of planning, creating layouts, and design of the Grace Christian Elementary School yearbook. The yearbooks will be passed out to the students on the last day of school, Thursday, June 24, with a signing party before school ends that day.
- Mark your calendar, it’s time to gear up for the **5th Annual End-of-the-Year PTO Camp Out**, on Friday, June 25. Plans are being made for FUN family activities such as water play, crafts, games, bingo, ice cream, “under the stars” movie and popcorn, a “midnight hike,” and much, much more! This year Ruby’s will be here for those that are interested in purchasing dinner on site instead of bring a picnic style dinner. Ruby’s will offer hamburger and hotdog meals, at \$5.00 and \$6.00. See the attached flyer and look for more detailed information coming home in your child’s backpack soon. A special “thank you” to the many parent volunteers that have stepped up to make this the best PTO Camp Out ever!! See you “Under The Stars!”
- School learning doesn’t have to stop for the summer. **Get your Summer Bridge Activities workbooks today.** These activity workbooks build confidence and self-esteem with activities that prepare students for their next grade level. This award-winning series helps students maintain and enhance scholastic and reading skills while they are away from school; including daily activities in Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Language Arts, and Bible. On Friday, October 15, Mrs. Brakebush will take all students, who turn in their Certificate of Completion award, to lunch! Make the right choice for your child this summer! Workbooks are available, and can be purchased in the School Office for \$13.95.
- The **2010/11 School Class Supply List, and TrueGrits School Uniforms Early Bird Sale** information was mailed home last week. Please make a note on the supply list of what supplies the teacher requires your child to have their name on. Also, you will find e-mail addresses, of the grade teachers, if you have any questions about the supplies. The 5th Grade Supply List will be distributed before the end of this current school year. For your convenience, the class supply list will also be posted on the School Website over the summer.
- Grace Christian Elementary School is excited to offer two **Summer Enrichment Camps** for GCS students and friends this year. Both camps will be held on the GCS campus and are open to students entering Kindergarten – 5th Grade. The number of students, for each camp, is limited and will fill on a first response basis. Please contact camp teachers directly by using the contact information provided to register your child(ren). Registration forms are attached to this newsletter. Checks need to be made out to GCS. You can mail your payment to GCS, or drop by the School Office with your payment, by Wednesday, July 28.
 - **Mrs. Bettwy’s Art Camp** will be held Monday-Friday, August 9-13, 10:45 AM-12:15 PM. The cost is \$75.00 for the 1st child, \$65.00 for the 2nd children, and \$55.00 for the 3rd child, from the same family. All art supplies are included in the price of the camp. Back by popular demand, students are asked to bring a t-shirt or pillowcase for tie dying, and wear clothes that can get dirty by art mediums. Mrs. Bettwy’s contact information: 949-939-5908 or julesbettwy@cox.net
 - **Miss Dawn’s Sports Water Camp** will be held Monday-Friday, August 9-13, 9:00-10:30 AM. The cost is \$60.00 for 1 child, \$100.00 for 2 children, from the same family, and \$130.00 for 3 children, from the same family. Students are asked to bring a bottle of water, and wear active wear that can get dirty and/or wet. Students must wear tennis shoes. Please apply sunscreen before class. Miss Dawn’s contact information: 949-939-0021 or dublinv@cox.net

Getting To Know Us Better.....

Each month, we highlight the Elementary Staff, so you can get to know us a little better. This month we would like you to get to know our Extended Care teachers, **Stacy Clark** and **Tammy Greyshock**!!

Stacy Clark works with our students in Extended Care. She and her husband, Greg, have been married for 11 years. They have two children, August-10, and India-7. The Clark family also have a dog, Olive, a guinea pig, Hannah, and a hamster, Marshmallow. Stacy enjoys cooking, gardening, reading, and spending time with her family. Stacy's favorite scripture is: James 4:7 *"Submit yourself, then, to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."* Her words of encouragement to parents are, "Laugh! Your kids will grow up so fast. Tickle them, kiss them, hug them, and love them." Her favorite life experience is going to India. "To see, and experience, another culture was eye opening. The cast system, arranged marriages, etc. really do exist." She even saw a cobra charmed from its basket! Something that might surprise you about Stacy is that she has always wanted to be an artist. Her dream would be to have a BIG loft to be able to paint, sculpt, you name it! Something special happening in her life this year is starting a new business—Living Greens Catering. Stacy tells us that her ministry is working at GCS and inspiring children. Thank you, Stacy, for inspiring all the children you touch in our Extended Care program!!

Tammy Greyshock also works in our Extended Care program. She and her husband, Jason, have been married for 10 years. They have two children, Ryder-8, and Reece-5. The Greyshock family has a dog, Mojo, and a fish named Swimmie. Tammy enjoys shopping, reading swimming, Russian Kettlebell, working out and boot camps. Something that you might not know about Tammy is that she was a figure skater for many years, and a chauffeur for 5 years. Her favorite passage is: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 "Love is patient, love is kind..." Her favorite vacations are Hawaii, in the pool, watching her kids swim underwater. Her words of encouragement to parents are, "Take a deep breath and enjoy every minute, they grow up fast. Enjoy their laughter!" A ministry that Tammy enjoys is working with the elderly...she loves visiting with her children. Thank you, Tammy, for your dedication to our program!!

A Fundraising Update from Tracey Shell, Fundraising Coordinator.

Thank you Grace, Christian families and friends, for all your contributions to the school-sponsored fundraisers held this school year. Your participation in events such as the gold buy-back, Fresh & Easy shopping day, Chuck E. Cheese's outing and every 10 cent box top label or swipe of your pre-registered grocery and Target card resulted in over \$4,000 toward our school. These funds are applied toward the many extra activities that are held throughout the school year such as Field Trips, "Dad and Me" Snow Day, the scarves for Mother's Day, Yearbook, Friday Treasure Chest, special athletic equipment, ie. new group ski racers and the giant frizbees. Take a look at how the dollars were earned:

	July - Sept 2009	Oct - Dec 2009	Jan - March 2010	April - June 2010	Total
Albertsons	\$ 92.89	\$ 105.85	program retired	program retired	\$ 198.74
Ralphs	\$ 204.77	\$ 429.59	\$	\$ -	\$ 634.36
eScrip	\$ 151.91	\$ 246.58	\$ 149.26	\$ -	\$ 547.75
eScrip Recycling	\$	\$ 51.61	\$ 59.92	\$	\$ 111.53
Box Tops	\$ 267.50	\$ 105.71	\$	\$ 176.63	\$ 549.84
Target	\$ 25.21	\$ -	\$ 159.70	\$ -	\$ 184.91
Fresh & Easy	\$ -	\$ 493.75	\$	\$ -	\$ 493.75
Gold Event	\$ -	\$ 1,100.00	\$	\$ -	\$ 1,100.00
Chuck E. Cheese	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 311.10	\$ -	\$ 311.10
					\$ 4,131.98

Albertsons has decided to discontinue their Community Rewards program. Ralphs and Vons / Pavilions are still supporting the community, so I'll be organizing families in the Fall to participate once again in their wonderful "give back" program! Save the attached box tops submission sheets so we can continue to earn dollars for our school over the summer. Thank you so much for your continued support.....Blessings, Tracey Shell



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SUMMER OFFICE HOURS
We're here for ya' but, call first!! ☺