



Reporters: Nevaeh Bland, Azoya Clarke, Heavyhn Kimber, Thalia Ortiz, Moo Ket Po, Ashanti Richards, Eh Blut Soe, Abigail Stapleton, and Grace Valdes.

Grace Academy Graduates its Third Class

by Thalia Ortiz



Marion Anderson's students, this year's current eighth graders, will be 2015's graduating class. They are the third class to graduate from Grace Academy, since the school is fairly new. The graduating class consists of Naomi Arroyo, Tailanae Brantley, Azoya Clarke, Angelica

De Los Santos, Biaja Jones, Thalia Ortiz, Doh Paw, Kyoe Paw, Chit Poe, Kenya Redding, Pawta Shu, Genesis Rodriguez, Liddy Siggia and Alanna Torres. As a whole, we would like to thank all the teachers and staff that helped us with our academics and high school applications.

For high school, the students from this class will be splitting up to attend various schools, such as Loomis Chaffee, Northwest Catholic, East Catholic, Mercy, Watkinson, Wethersfield High, and a number of magnet schools. Grace Academy has transformed the lives of all the eighth graders. For example, Kenya Redding said, "Before I came to Grace Academy I was a shy little bug and now, with the help of my peers and teachers, I'm no longer scared to talk to new people."

Not only did Grace transform the graduates socially, it also transformed them academically. "Math was a big struggle while I was in elementary," said another member of the graduating class, Genesis Rodriguez. "But with the support of my tutors and teachers, I was able to succeed." Marion Anderson's class will be moving onto high school with the academic and social skills they've learned with the help of all of the teachers, staff, tutors and peers. Overall, the future is bright for the graduates this year, and for many years to come.



Shipping Off to Boston

by Azoya Clarke

During the weekend of May 7 through May 9, Marion Anderson's eighth grade class went on a trip to Boston, Massachusetts. The trip began with a sleepover after school on Thursday. At the sleepover, the girls watched a movie, jammed to music, and spent quality time together. The next morning, all of the students and teachers loaded up into the vans and began their journey, which lasted roughly three hours.

Once in Boston, the girls went to the aquarium and saw many sea creatures. They even touched stingrays, star fish, and small sharks! Afterwards, they watched an IMAX movie about the preservation of Humpback whales. It was a very educational and fascinating experience. Later on, they went shopping at Quincy Market, which is an outlet with many interesting shops and restaurants. Many of the girls spent much of their money on fashionable items such as scarves, bracelets, superhero T-shirts, perfumes, and more.

Next, was the Duck Boat tour. A Duck Boat tour is an expedition through the city of Boston while learning about the history and fun facts. The tour began on land, with the "duck boat" in bus form, and eventually went into a river, where the vehicle transformed into a boat, which some students even had the opportunity to steer.

As the evening continued, the students went to eat at a diner where they met up with past teachers Ms. Belofsky and Ms. Coursey. It was nice getting to catch up with them and also having a good meal. The girls finished off the night by unloading at the Mother Caroline school. They read very heartfelt letters and reflected on their experience at Grace. The trip finished off with a trip to the Museum of Fine Art and a guide through the Freedom Trail. Overall, the trip was a great bonding experience and the Marion Anderson class will forever be connected by their everlasting sisterly bond.



Four Teachers Join Grace Faculty

by Eh Blut Soe

Four new teachers joined the Grace Academy staff this year. The new faculty members are Shantel Hanniford, who teaches 6th grade Girl Space and 5th grade Social Studies, Tom Manley, who teaches 5th grade and 6th grade Media & Technology, as well as 7th and 8th Social Studies, Georgia Whitaker, who is teaching 6th grade Social Studies and 7th grade ELA, and Julia Temple, who is teaching 6th grade and 8th grade Science and helps with 7th grade Math classes.

The new teachers are all from different places— some from places you might not expect. Julia Temple, for example, came here from Nebraska, while Tom Manley came all the way from the UK, though he has lived in the US for 15 years. North Star News interviewed the new faculty about their experiences so far at Grace Academy.

Ms. Hanniford:



Q: How do you feel being a teacher at Grace Academy?

A: Grace Academy has helped me deal with responsibility and management. Being a teacher at Grace has been an experience and an opportunity to grow.

Q: When you first came to Grace, what kind of school did you *think* it was?

A: I thought this school was very focused, but now that I finally see how Grace Academy is, it's very active.

Q: Did you teach your subjects prior to coming to Grace Academy?

A: This is my first time teaching the subjects that I'm teaching now, and it has opened my eyes to a lot of things.

Q: What is your favorite holiday and why?

A: Thanksgiving, because it's a time when everybody comes together and shares positive experiences that they have encountered during the year.

Mr. Manley:



Q: How do you feel being a teacher at Grace Academy?

A: I feel great, and teaching at Grace presents a lot of challenges to overcome.

Q: When you first came to Grace, what kind of school did you *think* it was?

A: I thought it was a good school and I liked the school's mission. I really liked the students when I first came here.

Q: Did you teach the subjects that you are teaching now before?

A: No, but I have coached sports before.

Q: What is your favorite holiday and why?

A: It's not really a holiday, but I like going to Ireland because it's beautiful and the people there are great. I get to spend a great amount of time with my parents when I visit, because I don't usually see them.

Ms. Temple:



Q: How do you feel being a teacher at Grace Academy?

A: Tired! Well, I like teaching in some settings, but sometimes I don't feel like teaching at all.

Q: When you first came to Grace, what kind of school did you *think* it was?

A: Well, we had a little meeting when the girls weren't at school yet, so I heard a little about the students. But I've never taught at an all girl school before, so it's been a really hard experience.

Q: Did you teach the subjects that you are teaching now before?

A: Yes, I taught 7th grade math at Madison Grant Middle School in Airmont, Indiana. And I taught environmental science and nature class at Rocky Mountain National Park and Taylor University at Upland, Indiana.

Q: What is your favorite holiday and why?

A: National Bite Your Toe Nail Day, because only a few flexible people can do it. It's just because I like biting my toe nails.

Ms. Whitaker:



Q: How do you feel being a teacher at Grace Academy?

A: I really enjoy getting to know the students — and teaching English. I also reliving my own middle school social studies experience with the 6th grade class.

Q: When you first came to Grace, what kind of school did you *think* it was?

A: I thought it was a very energetic and very close-knit school.

Q: Did you teach the subjects that you are teaching now before?

A: No.

Q: What is your favorite holiday and why?

A: Thanksgiving and the Fourth of July. Thanksgiving because I get to cook with my family. Fourth of July because I love fireworks and strawberry shortcakes.



Film Club Students Attend Reel Hartford Youth Festival

by Azoya Clarke

On Saturday, April 25, 2015, members of the Grace Academy film club went to Trinity College to attend a showcase of short films created by youth in the city of Hartford. Those in the group included Azoya Clarke, Chit Poe, Dayanara Vega, Heavyhn Kimber, Pawta Shu, Sabrina Levy, and group leader Mr. Manley.

These seven members created a short film about what Hartford meant to them. After several weeks of preparation, filming, and editing, the film was finally complete and submitted into the contest. The film featured many picturesque scenes, such as the skyline of Hartford and the Capitol building.

According to film crew member, Heavyhn Kimber, the film festival was "very good." The Grace Academy students were much younger than many of the students at the event, but, overall, they felt like it was a nice experience and that watching the other creative videos was entertaining. Although the students did not win an award in any of the seven categories, the students really enjoyed attending the festival and developing the short film.



Grace Academy Celebrates Poetry Month

by Nary Oo

Have you ever wondered why we have poetry month every year in April? Well, that's because Poetry Month is a National event in which everyone is able to participate. You might think that Grace Academy is the only school participating in Poetry Month, but schools all over the United States are doing the same thing. Poetry Month is something fun to do every year. At Grace Academy, we participate in this event by inviting guests to choose their favorite poem and read it to the whole school. There have been many special and wonderful guests who came to read their favorite poems, including Mayor Pedro Segarra, Sarah Fitzsimons and John Motley.

Poems are wonderful. Sometimes, if you read deeply into to a poem and really think about it, you are able to unlock the poem's meaning. I would like to share a poem with you called *I Taught Myself To Live Simply*, by Anna Akhmatova.

I Taught Myself to Live Simply

I taught myself to live simply and wisely,
to look at the sky and pray to God,
and to wander long before evening
to tire my superfluous worries.
When the burdocks rustle in the ravine
and the yellow-red rowanberry cluster droops
I compose happy verses
about life's decay, decay and beauty.
I come back. The fluffy cat
licks my palm, purrs so sweetly
and the fire flares bright
on the saw-mill turret by the lake.
Only the cry of a stork landing on the roof
occasionally breaks the silence.
If you knock on my door
I may not even hear.

If you feel like reflecting on this poem, you can share your thoughts on the lines below.



Riddles:

- I'm tall when I'm young, and I'm short when I'm old. What am I?
- What is the longest word in the dictionary?
- What has 4 eyes but can't see?
- If I have it, I don't share it. If I share it, I don't have it. What is it?
- What is at the end of a rainbow?

Answers: (1) A Candle. (2) "Smiles," because there is a mile between each s. (3) Mississippi. (4) A secret. (5) The letter W.

Catching Up with Grace's New Students

by Heavyhn Kimber

I interviewed a few of the new students at Grace Academy about their experience this year — and about their interests. The students I spoke to came to Grace from other schools in the Hartford area, and all said they liked their first year at Grace, especially the education they received. The new students are very nice people.



Q: What School did you go to before Grace?

Moo Ket Pho: West Middle.

Sabrina Levy: John C. Clarke.

Elaina Rodriguez: M.D. Fox.

Q: What do you like about the school?

MP: That it has sports, lots of tutors, and lots of education!

SL: The education.

ER: The sports.

Q: What is your favorite TV show or channel?

MP: Sports Channel.

SL: Empire.

ER: Disney Channel.

Q: What do you think can improve about Grace?

MP: More time and more study hall.

SL: The space.

ER: I would like a shorter day.

Q: What do you like about your class?

MP: The students are fun and cool, and they care about their education.

SL: My friends.

ER: I like having parties!



How Grace Academy is Different From My Old School

by Grace Valdes

Grace Academy differs from my old school, Montessori Magnet School, in many ways. Unlike my old school, which was co-ed, Grace Academy is a school for girls. The reason I like going to an all girls school is that my old school had boys who talked so loud that it was hard to concentrate. With 59 students, Grace Academy is a much smaller school than MMS, which had more than 200 students. There are also much fewer students per grade and in each class at Grace, which makes it easier to learn.

Grace Academy also offers "Rising Stars" to students at other schools to help the girls get into Grace Academy. The day at Grace Academy always ends with some fun activity, such as sports or clubs. Grace Academy has a longer day than MMS, which is a good thing, because we get to have study hall, where we have time to do homework, which makes doing homework a lot more fun.

Grace Students Share Their Future Goals

by Nevaeh Bland

The students at Grace Academy all have dreams that they want to accomplish when they get older. I believe in these girls — I have faith that they will accomplish their dreams, because I've seen what these girls are capable of doing. They are very smart and talented young girls. They are role models at Grace Academy and can do anything they put their minds to. Here, Grace students share their future goals — and offer some words of wisdom.



Shayland Clarke: When I grow up, I want to be a pediatrician, because I love babies. They're so adorable. I also may want to work with people who deliver babies. What inspires me is kids themselves. I love seeing kids smiling. It brings joy to my eyes.

Grace Academy has helped me, because it has taught me speech and independence.

"Follow your dreams, Amen, Hallelujah."



Paw Say Wah: When I grow up, I would like to be a scientist. I want to be a scientist, because I want to find cures for sicknesses. The people that inspire me are people who are sick. They inspire me because

I feel bad that they have to go through this pain, and I am forever grateful and blessed that I am very healthy. I think I will accomplish my dreams, because I work hard and I believe in myself.

"Follow your dreams and never give up!! There is always a way to accomplish your dreams. So do it & live it."



Genesis Del Valle: I want to be a president of the United States, because I want to make the USA a better — and safer — place for people to live, where everyone has a voice. My family inspires me, because I see what they go through, and I want to see them in a wonderful place where they can finally be happy. Grace Academy has taught me leadership, independence, and acceptance. These qualities have given me determination.

"Always keep in mind that there is a light in you that NO ONE has the power to blow out!"



Kaitlee Tellez: When I grow up I want to be a pianist, because I want to live up to my mom's expectations. My brother, Chris, inspired me, because he plays too, and he told me I can do anything I put my mind to. Grace Academy helps me when we have piano class, because I can practice.

"Walk into the light. If you want something you have to work for it, hard work pays off."

Sports News



Soccer Report

by Moo Ket Po

This soccer season was one of the most successful seasons we've had so far. The team beat last year's record, and made it into the finals. The Grace girls were very happy.

"Soccer is the best, and you need to play *with* each other," said one of the players, Paw Shee. She explained that it's important for players to have good sportsmanship and play by the rules. Some of the rules are: No pushing, no use of hands (unless you're a goalie), and you can't threaten the other teammates.

Mu Kue, another player, explained what goes on at practice: "You need to run a lot, so you can be fast when you try to get the ball from someone or when you're dribbling. Players also need to practice taking warm up shots at the goal."

We competed against schools such as Two Rivers Magnet School, Science Medical and Sports Academy and other middle schools. This season our coaches included Coach Cote and Ms. Krmpotich. We played in Bushnell Park every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.



Track Report

by Heavyn Kimber



The track season this year was great. We had two track meets held at Hartford High, where we ran for our lives. Our relay team made third place in our heat at both meets.

We had a lot of support from our fellow Grace Academy students, who came out to watch us and cheer us on. Some students even came in first and second place in their heats, which was awesome. The events Grace Academy entered into were: the 100 meter dash, 200 meter dash, 400 meter run, 4x1 girls relay race, and shot-put. Too bad the season is over! Come try out for the track team next year, Grace Girls. Woo hoo! Go Grace!

Clubs at Grace Academy

by Nary Oo

Quarter 1:	Quarter 2:	Quarter 3:	Quarter 4:
Creative Writing Club	Cooking club	Cooking Club	Newspaper Club
Guitar Club	Knitting Club	Photography Club	Poetry Club
Games Club	Jewelry Club	Investments Club	Dance Club
Greeting Cards Club	Guitar Club	Girl Rising Club	Girl Scouts
Yoga Club	Story-telling Club	Theater Club	Theater Club
Cooking club		Story-telling Club	

At Grace Academy this year, there have been about five to six clubs each quarter. The most popular club — which many students wanted to be in — was cooking. Not only did participants learn to make new foods, but they also got to eat it! YUM! YUM! The clubs offered at Grace Academy this year ranged from Investment Club to Dance Club. You may or may not have noticed this, but this is the first year that Grace Academy has had Investment Club. Investment Club talks a lot about dealing with money. Students in that club learned a great deal about the stock market. If you are a person interested in doing business, well, Investment Club is the perfect club for you. Look out next year for Investment Club!

We interviewed some students about what they thought about the clubs this year. Brianna Collazo, who spent fourth quarter in Poetry Club, replied “What I love about the clubs is learning and experiencing new things. I also like meeting new club leaders.”

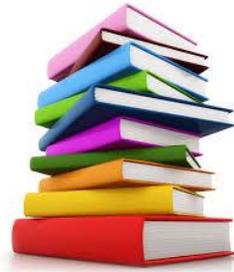
Mu Kue, who was in Dance Club this quarter, said she also enjoyed learning new things. I agree with both of them because you have to try new things before that precious time is over and you’re off to high school. “What I like about the clubs is having a chance to laugh and have fun and be ourselves,” added Ellen Baptiste, who spent fourth quarter in Girl Scouts Club.

We also asked the students: If there could be any other clubs, what club would they want Grace Academy to have? What they replied was Soccer Club, Adventure Club and Book Club. If you are a teacher reading this, I hope you can do something about that! Why don’t we all keep our fingers crossed -- maybe next year we will have those clubs!



Book Roundup

by Abigail Stapleton



Book: Paper Towns

Author: John Green

The book *Paper Towns* is about the main character Quentin Jacobsen, who is mesmerized by Margo Roth Spiegelman and is a part of her life from afar. Everything changes the day Margo enters Quentin’s room in the middle of the night dressed in a ninja outfit. Follow Quentin and Margo through their adventures in *Paper Towns*. *Paper Towns* is going to be made in to a movie this summer, too, so be sure to read the book before you watch the movie!

Book: Unwind

Author: Neal Shusterman

Unwind is the first in a series of science fiction novels written by the author Neal Shusterman, known as the Unwind Dystology. This book follows three teens (Connor, Risa, and Lev) on their journey to stay whole. It is a dystopian novel, set in the future, and will send chills down your spine. It is one of my favorite books, and I would recommend that you read it.

Book: Legend

Author: Marie Lu

Legend is a great book that takes place in the future. Day is the most wanted criminal in the Republic, and his latest crime was killing Metias Iparis. June Iparis is the most celebrated prodigy, and her latest mission is to find Day and bring him to justice. Read *Legend* and see what happens when June and Day cross paths. And remember: *Truth will be Legend*



Spring Dance

by Eh Blut Soe

On May 29, 2015, Grace girls attended a spring dance at Covenant Prep. The dance ran from 6:30-9:00, and was very energetic. Refreshments included food and shakes. But the most fun part of the event was the dancing!

Grace Students' Talents on Display at Spring Showcase

by Thalia Ortiz

Every year Grace Academy has two showcases; a Winter Showcase and a Spring Showcase. For this year's Spring Showcase, on Thursday June 4th, we had many clubs come together and perform the work they've been working on throughout the quarter. Also, many art pieces were on display for all the students, teachers and parents to see. Specifically, attendees could view pop art-inspired candy wrapper posters that the sixth graders worked extremely hard on, as well as a handful of other art pieces. The theater/drama club performed a play, the storytelling club performed and narrated a series of stories, and the poetry club recited original poems and poems written by famous poets. All parents and family members were invited to this year's Spring Showcase.



The Year in Review

by Ashanti Richards

This has been a crazy, roller coaster-like year. We have been through a lot, friendship-wise and school-wise. We've had many special events, including the Bright Colors Dance, Black and White Dance, Spring Showcase, Track meets, Cookout during lunch, and many other things. "The dance was awesome," Elaina Rodriguez said. "My friends and people from my school were there."

Students also had the opportunity to go on several field trips this year, including the eighth grade trip to Boston and the sixth grade visit to the Planetarium. I just hope that everyone had a good year, and that everyone has a good next year, wherever it takes you.



Students Look Forward to a Fun-filled Summer

by Moo Ket Po



Summer is beautiful, and many Grace Academy students said they are looking forward to this warm season. "Summer is the best," said Paw Shee. During this beautiful season, people go on vacation to places that have beaches, lakes, and pools.

"I'm so ready for summer " said Janelle Darkwah. Grace Academy students work very hard during the school year, so they are ready for a break. Students said they like summer because it is hot enough to go swimming, and because they get to spend time with their family and have fun with friends.

Paw Shee said that during summer she will go to New York, New Jersey and Canada. Janelle Darkwah said she will go to the Lake Compounce water park. And, finally Amanda Ogando said that she can't wait to go to the beach, lake, and mostly, her favorite place, Six Flags, this summer.

Summer is a time when you get to spend time with your family and friends, and also go places. There are plants growing and beautiful, beautiful flowers. The flowers smell of sweetness and you can't keep your eyes off their colorful blooms. But, on the other hand, the summer sun can give you sunburn, and the heat can make you very thirsty — so don't forget to drink a lot of water and wear sunblock while enjoying your summer activities!



FOOD FINDER

C	Z	C	U	B	A	N	A	N	A	P	Q	H	M	Y	BACON	PORK
R	W	O	Q	W	S	C	U	P	C	A	K	E	X	BANANA	RICE	
Z	I	O	F	A	S	K	A	P	C	C	Q	E	D	E	BROWNIES	WATER
B	H	K	B	T	T	V	D	H	B	S	C	D	D	CHEESE	MELON	
A	Q	I	G	E	Y	E	Q	S	I	R	S	N	B	F	CHERRY	
C	N	E	R	R	C	C	F	Z	C	O	E	C	S	Z	CHICKEN	
O	S	H	A	M	H	R	L	K	W	G	H	H	W	CHOCOLATE		
N	X	D	P	E	E	O	I	E	E	N	G	E	J	E	COOKIE	
S	T	J	E	L	E	C	E	G	N	I	O	R	O	K	CUPCAKE	
Y	N	N	S	O	S	O	S	T	G	E	R	R	I	C	EGG	
F	P	W	S	N	E	L	E	G	K	S	D	Y	P	S	FRIES	
H	Q	X	U	I	U	A	G	B	R	D	J	R	O	B	GRAPES	
C	C	D	E	N	G	T	R	J	R	I	C	E	R	E	GRITS	
M	E	S	G	Y	R	E	H	A	E	X	T	S	K	F	NOODLES	
F	P	I	Z	Z	A	N	O	O	D	L	E	S	U	W	PIZZA	