



Spring Issue  
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The North Star News Reporters: Nevaeh Bland, Destiny Hughes, Paw Say Htoo, Abigail Islam, Epephanie Laboy, Rhaili-Em Lowe, Ashanti Richards, Abigail Stapleton, and Shir-val Williams.

## Election News: Grace Students Cast Their Votes for U.S. President

By Abigail Stapleton, Paw Say Htoo and Shir-val Williams



Hillary Clinton



Bernie Sanders



Donald Trump

Stories about the upcoming presidential election have dominated the news lately. Though most of the students at Grace Academy have not yet reached voting age, they still have strong opinions about who should run this country. We decided to ask the students of Grace Academy who they would want to be the president of the United States – Bernie Sanders, Hillary Clinton, or Donald Trump. Grace Academy students would elect Bernie Sanders. Hillary Clinton came in second place. Donald Trump came in last, receiving only three votes.

Which of their fellow classmates would Grace Academy students place in the White House? There were many suggestions, but Paw Shee, Cityra Lee, Abigail Stapleton, and Heavhyn Kimber earned the most votes.

## Grace Academy Students Display Their Talents

By Nevaeh Bland

On April 29, 2016, Grace Academy girls once again displayed their many talents. The acts included dancing, and singing. Each and everybody that performed on this day did an outstanding job in showing their talents. I honestly can not wait to see what next year brings.



Nevaeh Bland & Luciante Dulaire danced to “Bet You Can't Whip Like Me, by Dlow” in Grace Academy’s 2016 talent show.



The Macho Brothers (Ms. Witt, Shui Se Phoe, Maria Janer, Graciela Santos, Ms. Becca, Taina Rodriguez, Michelle Garcia, Eden Bailey, Kaitlee Tellez)

The Macho Brothers returned to Grace Academy's 2016 talent show, and put together another beautiful performance (with Kaitlee Tellez, Shui Se Phoe, Maria Janer, Graciela Santos & Ms. Witt)



Taina Rodriguez and Luciante Dulaire. Great Job guys!! Beautiful voices!!



Ayanna Sings “Sings Thinking Out Loud.” Great job for your first year at Grace Academy! Can’t wait to see you perform next year.



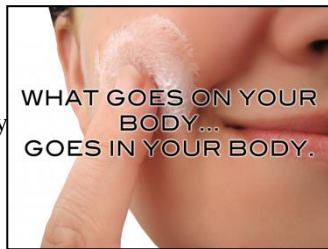
## Beauty Exposed

By Abigail Islam

In June 2004, Environment California, a nonprofit group that works to protect and improve the environment in the state, issued a warning about potentially toxic beauty products. They reported that harmful chemicals had been discovered in products such as makeup, shampoo, skin lotion, nail polish and other personal care products.

In 1933, a woman was hospitalized for excruciating eye pain. Doctors watched in horror as her eyes were eaten away by an acid-like chemical. The culprit turned out to be an eyelash darkening treatment called Lash Lure, which contained a toxic coal tar dye. Though legislation was passed in 1938 which gave the Food and Drug Administration the right to oversee cosmetics, as well as food and drugs, many unsafe products remain on the market. For example, there are still many eyeliners on the market that contain coal tar dye according to Environmental Working Group (EWG), another non-profit group dedicated to protecting human health and the environment. And EWG also reports that many hair straightening products contain formaldehyde, which can cause cancer.

On the positive side, EWG has created the Skin Deep Cosmetics Database (@skindeep), which not only lists products containing toxic chemicals, but also provides information about products that are non-toxic and safe for both people and the environment.



### Grace Academy Welcomes New Sixth Graders

By Epephanie LaBoy

Grace Academy welcomed three new 6th grade students this year. North Star News asked them some questions about their experience so far at Grace Academy.

All three students said they've enjoyed their first year at Grace. "I think it's good because it brings people together," said Julissa Monta. Though the students liked all their teachers, De'geal Davis and Adrianna Ordaya said that Ms. Witt was their favorite.

We asked the students how they and their families found Grace Academy. "I learned about Grace Academy at Capital Squash," said Julissa. De'geal and Adrianna heard about Grace from family friends. The students said the biggest difference between Grace Academy and their previous schools is that Grace is an all girls school, while their old schools were co-ed. All three students said they have made new friends at Grace this year.



### Grace's New Fifth Graders Reflect on their First Year

By Shir-val Williams

Being a new student can be pretty hard, so I asked some of our 5th graders about their experience at Grace Academy so far. I asked them questions like "What do you like about Grace Academy," "What is your favorite subject and why," and "Would you change anything about Grace Academy?"

Most of the new fifth graders said that they liked the environment at the school. "It's really open," said Epephanie LaBoy. "In my old school, there were groups of people who brought drama and here they don't do that." When asked about which classes they liked best, most of the fifth graders chose science and math as their favorites. Cytira said that her favorite teacher was Mrs. Hubert, because she is really nice and makes math class fun.

I asked the students what they thought about Grace Academy when they first visited the school, and most said it was really fun when they came to visit and that they wouldn't really change much about the school. One student said that she would like to change the restricted lunch rule,

because sometime students are out sick and they are put into restricted lunch for not being at school. But overall, the new students had positive things to say about the school. I think the 5th graders have come to make great memories here at Grace Academy.



### Food! Food! Food!

By: Ashanti Richards



Here at Grace Academy, everyone is just so in love with food. When you walk down the halls, all you hear is talk about food. Students are even dreaming about food. So I decided to do a little survey to see what kinds of food the students like -- but mostly to see how savage we are.



**If you could be one food what would you be?**

**Shir-val:** BBQ Chicken leg

**LeAnne:** Flamin' hot cheetos.

**Zaine:** Dirt (good choice because no one eats dirt)

**Heavyhn:** Chocolate Chip cookie dough Ice Cream

**Cityra:** Shrimp

The most popular food among the 5th grade class is chicken, and their favorite fast food restaurant is Popeyes. The 6th grade class's favorite dish is Mac N' Cheese, while their favorite fast food

restaurant is KFC. Pizza gets top billing among the 7th graders; their favorite fast food restaurant is Wendy's. Last, but not least, the 8th grade class agrees with the 5th graders when it comes to food, and with the 7th graders when it comes to restaurants: chicken is their preferred food, and Wendy's is their favorite fast food joint.

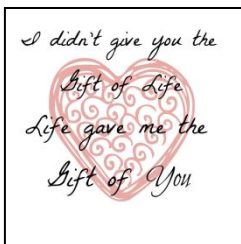
Now, the moment you have been waiting for: The most popular food among all Grace Academy students is chicken wings. Wendy's and Popeye's tie for the most popular fast food restaurant.



### **Mother's Day Special:**

#### **A Girl's Best Friend is Always Her Mother**

By Nevaeh Bland



*"Always my mother,  
Forever my friend"*

We all know a girl's best friend is her mom. Our moms are the ones who raised us, the ones who taught us good from bad. Most importantly, a mother's treasure is her daughter. At the end of the day, she's the only mom we've got. No one can replace your mom. Love from a friend is nothing compared to love from a mother. I've interviewed seventh and eighth graders to get their stories about how much they love and adore their mothers.

#### Ashanti Richards (8th grade):

"I love everything about my mom. I love my moms food. Its soo good. That's what I love the most!! She makes sure the house is always clean. She's always there for me when I need her. She's always there when I'm feeling down. I love my mom more than anything. She's just the best mom ever!!"

#### Shir-val Williams (8th grade):

My mother is awesome. The best mother in the world, She loves me and really cares about me. She makes really really good food. "I love you mommy!!"

#### Eden Bailey (7th grade):

"I LOVE MY MOM SO MUCH!! She is the ideal mother. She raised me to become the girl I am today. She disciplines me. She gave me a warm place to sleep and good food to eat. Everything I need to stay alive. I love my mother so much."



### **Grace Graduates**

By Abigail Stapleton

The eighth grade class is leaving Grace Academy very soon. So, before they leave I decided to ask them a few questions. I asked them questions like "What do you want to be when you grow up?" The results were astounding.

"I want to be Harry Styles' wife, because that is the best job ever," Ashanti Richards said. Dayanara Vega said she wanted to be "Gray Fullbuster," but then added that she also wanted to be a marine biologist. "I have a lot of options," she said. Paw Say Htoo admitted that she'd like to "make money without doing anything. I want to be a Kardashian. Yup, I am not ashamed." Joking aside, I see a bright future for all of our eighth grade graduates.

When I asked the eighth grade class what they will miss most about Grace Academy, many said they would miss their fellow students. "The students and how they make me laugh," said Janelle Darkwah. "My friends," said Dayanara Vega. "My classmates and my greatest friend Abby," said Paw Say Htoo.

Some of the students acknowledged that they were nervous for high school. "I am nervous because I'm afraid on the first day of high school I will trip and fall on my face," admitted Tianna Parnter. Others were simply excited to enter the next phase of their lives. "I'm not nervous because I could fit in anywhere," declared Dayanara Vega. Finally, I asked the graduating class what their greatest memory is of Grace Academy. "When Tianna tried to kill me at Winding Trails," Paw Say said with a laugh. "The teachers," said Sierra Scott. "But definitely not the food." I am truly sad to say farewell to the eighth grade class.



## Rising Eighth Graders

By Paw Say Htoo



This school year is coming to an end. The 8th graders are graduating and it is an exciting time for them. But we also have to think about the rising 8th graders. Next year, the Anne Frank class will become the new leaders of Grace Academy. The rising 5th and 6th graders will be looking up to them. Before the year's end, I interviewed some of the rising 8th graders about both their 7th grade year and the year ahead.

I asked about how they feel about going into eighth grade. Moo Ket Po said, "I feel very nervous," which is a normal feeling to have -- especially when going into 8th grade. But four out of five interviewees said they weren't nervous at all. "I feel very gloomy about it," confessed Eh Blut Soe, who is sad to be nearing the end of her Grace Academy experience.

Though the seventh graders had a difficult time coming up with favorite memories from the past year, Nary's recollection made her laugh hysterically. "When I broke the cabinet by accident," she said. What are the seventh graders most excited about regarding eighth grade? "I am excited to graduate," said Shui Se. "I am excited to start my high school applications and to go on field trips."

When asked if they had advice for the rising seventh graders, the students had plenty of wisdom to share. Eh Blut said they should participate; Shui Se suggested they listen to their teachers. Ester's advice was, "Live your life to the fullest," while Nary simply said, "YOLO." Last but not least, Moo Ket said, "Get away from the dramas." Most of the advice they have to offer is very important, and I think the rising seventh graders will benefit from following the advice of the current seventh graders.



## Grace Student Athletes Talk Sports

By Rhaili-Em Lowe and Epephanie LaBoy

At Grace Academy, there are lots of good sports to choose from every quarter. *North Star News* interviewed students about their favorite sports and what they are playing this quarter.

### 5th grade

**Cityra-** She is doing track this quarter. Her favorite sport is basketball, she says, because "It's fun and cool."

**Destiny-** Her favorite sport is gymnastics, which taught her how to keep her body healthy. She wants to work on her stretching.



Grace's step team performs at Power of Grace event.

### 6th Grade

**Shannon-** Her favorite sport is track, because she likes running, as well as being healthy and active. She says track taught her how to push herself, but she would like to improve in her distance.

**Abigail-** Her favorite sport is tennis, because she loves the way she is good at it. She has learned the importance of hard work from the sport, she says, and she loves to play.

### 7th Grade

**Ivania-** Her favorite sport is golf, because she tried it once and enjoyed it very much. This quarter, she learned how to putt the ball, though she'd like to improve on this skill. .

**Kaitlee-** Her favorite sport is volleyball, because she enjoys the competition. She learned that she is skilled at volleyball.



## Why I Love Gymnastics

By Destiny Hughes

As many people at Grace Academy know, I love gymnastics. I love gymnastics because it keeps my body flexible and healthy. Throughout my life I've done five different sports: soccer, track, gymnastics, basketball, and step. I started off not knowing anything about gymnastics, but once I moved to Old Lyme, I wanted to try gymnastics, so my mom signed me up for ABC Gymnastics in Niantic.

On my first day of gymnastics, I could tell my life had changed. At first, my sister did it with me, but then she moved on to track. Every Wednesday, I go to gymnastics. We always stretch and run before we start. I've earned seven different awards at gymnastics competitions, including ribbons, medals, and trophies.



**Advice Column:  
Miss Purple Queen Addresses  
Students and Teachers Concerns**

**Dear Miss Purple Queen,  
What if Donald Trump wins the election?  
From,  
Election Girl**

*Dear Election Girl,  
I'm sorry that you are scared about Donald Trump winning. If it makes you feel better, not every person in the world likes him, so you're not alone (even I don't like him). But you never know, someone else might be president. I don't want you to worry, but maybe talk to your family or your mom about your concerns? Hope you feel better!*  
From,  
Miss Purple Queen

**Dear Miss Purple Queen,  
When we're in class, everyone talks when it's my turn to talk. Even when I raise my hand, everyone just ignores me and talks. What can I do to get everyone to listen to me?  
Signed,  
Feeling Overlooked  
P.S I'm a teacher**

*Dear Feeling Overlooked,  
I'm really sorry that nobody listens when you try to talk. Maybe you could try to find a little hand signal to get your students to stop talking. Again, I'm really sorry that your students hurt your feelings. I really hope this helps with your class. If it doesn't help, then write to me again (or not--it's your choice). Good luck!*  
Signed,  
Miss Purple Queen

**Dear Miss Purple Queen,  
Everyone doesn't like me and I haven't been to a party!  
Signed,  
All by myself**

*Dear All By Myself,  
Don't be so hard on yourself. When I was at my old school, I thought everyone was super mean, but when my teacher told me all about collaboration, I talked and got to meet a lot of new classmates. Anyway, the point I'm trying to make is that everyone makes friends even if it takes a little while. So don't worry, at Grace Academy, everyone likes everyone. Making friends just takes time and I'm sure you're not a nobody and that people don't hate you. Always remember to try to mingle around. By the way, thank you for knowing my name!! Always dream big, Beautiful!!!*  
Signed,  
Miss Purple Queen

**Dear Miss Purple Queen,  
How do I study properly?  
Signed,  
Homework Helper**

*Dear Homework Helper,  
I'm sorry you don't feel like you study properly. Maybe it would be helpful to go to another room at study hall time, or you could maybe ask your family or Grace Academy for a tutor? Another thing I suggest is that you bring your homework home, so that your parent or relative can help you understand the homework. Hope this advice helps you. If not just write back to me.*  
Signed, Miss Purple Queen



**Jokes**  
By: Ashanti Richards

**Q: What did one wall say to the other?**

A: Meet you at the corner.

**Q: What do you call a fake noodle?**

A: An Impasta

**Q: What stays in the corner and travels all over the world?**

A: A stamp.

**Q: Why didn't the skeleton go to the dance?**

A: Because he had no-body to go with.

**Q: What did one elevator say to the other elevator?**

A: I think I'm coming down with something!