



The North Star Reporters: Janelle Darkwah, Mu Kue, Thalia Ortiz, Nary Oo, Tianna Parnter, Kenyaira Redding, Ashanti Richards, Kaitlee Tellez

A Word from Student Council

By Ashanti Richards

This year we had our student council election. Many people signed up for student council, but only some got the job! The election was held on a Friday during advisory. It was a close race, but we now have two representatives from 5th, 6th, and 7th grade, and three representatives from 8th grade. I wonder how it must have felt for the new 5th grade class to sign up, figuring it was their first year at Grace Academy!

Here, the North Star News interviews the new representatives to learn why they wanted to run for student council and what they have planned for Grace Academy – and their futures.

Q: Why did you sign up for student council?

Abby: I wanted to make a change in our school and help others.

Angelica: I signed up because I wanted to be a leader of the lower grades.

Q: What do you want to keep and what do you want to change about our school?

Sabrina: We should keep the sports and activities the same, but we need to make our community closer.

Vilmari: I want to change how long recess is – it should be longer.

Azoya: I want to keep SSR, but it should be longer.

Q: What do you do during Student Council meetings? Do you work well with the other members?

Angelica: I make sure that everyone is participating and I work very well with the other members.

Q: Do you want to sign up for any other governmental roles when you're older?

Abby: Yes, maybe mayor.

Angelica: No.

Azoya: Yes, I would like to run for president when older.

Julitza: Maybe I would like to run for president.

Sabrina: No.

Vilmari: No.

Brianna: Yes.

Taina: No.

Kierrah: Yes, maybe president

Student Council Representatives



5th grade: Taina and Brianna



6th grade: Vilmari and Abby



7th grade: Angelica and Azoya



8th grade: Sabrina, Julitza, and Kierrah

Students Take Field Trip to Pequot Museum

By Nary Oo



Grace Academy 5th and 6th graders took a trip to the Pequot Museum on November 16th to learn more about Native Americans. When North Star News interviewed some of the students that went to the museum, they all seemed to agree that the field trip was an adventure, a fun learning experience and, in the words of a student, “awesome.”

“It was exciting and fun to learn about,” said Ester Paw, a fifth grader, “because I want to know what people lived before us.”

Two teachers accompanied the students to the museum, Ms. Coursey and Ms. Krmptich. “This is an exciting museum that brings the history of Native Americans to life,” Ms. Coursey said. Even though she is a teacher, Ms. Coursey said she learned new things. “Students were able to apply what they know about tribes of the eastern woodlands and learn about a tribe from Connecticut,” she added.

While the students toured the Pequot Museum, they saw a sample of a Native American living space, as well as a preserved white mastodon, artifacts, clothing and artwork. “I thought there was amazing artwork!” said Paw Say. Overall, the students loved the museum and would love to go there again!

Fun Facts about Grace Girls*



- ✓ Fifty percent of Grace Academy students have pets.
- ✓ The Hunger Games is the most popular book series among GA readers.
- ✓ Almost 3/4 of GA students play instruments – 1/3 play more than one!
- ✓ Soccer is the most popular sport among GA students; basketball is a close second.
- ✓ Nearly half of GA students were born in Hartford; almost one quarter were born in Thailand.
- ✓ Cookies and cream is the most favored ice cream flavor among GA students, followed closely by vanilla.

* Facts based on a second quarter survey of the Grace Academy students

Going Green at Grace

By Mu Kue

Nowadays, recycling is a fashionable word in the media. However, less than one percent of plastic bags are recycled, and over 7 billion pounds of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) are thrown away in the U.S. each year.

Only 18 million pounds of this widely-produced plastic -- about one quarter of 1 percent -- is recycled. Airports and airlines recycle less than 20 percent of the 425,000 tons of passenger-related waste they produce each year. In 2008, paper and paperboard made up 31% of municipal waste; plastics were 12%.



Though the statistics are troubling, students and teachers here at Grace Academy are making an effort to go green. Every classroom has a recycling bin, so that students can separate their recyclables from other trash. In addition, signs in the restrooms advise students not to waste paper towels. Another way to be green is to choose reusable tote bags while shopping.

North Star News interviewed some teachers and volunteers at Grace Academy to find out steps they take to protect the environment.

"I will bring a reusable bag with me when I go shopping, and I also pick up the trash," said Pei, a student volunteer from Miss Porter's.

"I recycle paper and plastics," said Ms. Belofsky. "I also educate people on why recycling is so important, and how to do it correctly."

Ms. Witt gave the following advice: "Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle!"

Even though society advocates that people look after their own waste and be mindful of the environment, we the students have to be role models that spread the word about going green.

People in the News!!



Ms. Ly

By Janelle Darkwah

Ms. Ly, who is from Lowell, Massachusetts, started teaching at Grace Academy this past August. She teaches 6th grade science, 5th grade math, and 5th and 6th grade Girls Space.

Ms. Ly says she loves the girls at Grace! Here, she tells *North Star News* a little bit about herself, and about what it's like to teach at Grace Academy.

Q. When is your birthday?

A. My birthday is on May 4.

Q. How many siblings do you have?

A. I have 2 younger sisters.

Q. Do you like answering these questions?

A. I truly like answering these questions because it lets people see a piece of who I am.

Q. Do you think it is stressful to teach at Grace Academy?

A. I think that it is not stressful to teach at Grace Academy because the girls at Grace Academy bring me joy.

Q. Do you love being a teacher at Grace Academy?

A. I love being a teacher because I believe in the empowerment of young girls!!

Q. Do you get frustrated with the students?

A. I am a very strange person when I get frustrated because I sit down and think about it instead of bursting into anger!

Q. Do you think you are smart?

A. I think that I'm smart because I'm capable of doing many things.

Q. Do you love teaching science and Girl Space?

A. I LOVE teaching science and Girl Space because I would like to know the students very well!

Q. Do you love spending time with us?

A. I love spending time with students because they make me a better person!!!

Ms. Piperi

By Kenyaira Redding



A new teacher began teaching here at Grace this fall: Her full name is Natalia Luvenia Piperi, and she was born in Texas. Her favorite color is yellow, and she had a teaching job in Texas that she loved, but does not regret leaving to come to Grace Academy. The old school that she taught at had roughly 200-300 students, with about 50 per grade.

Ms. Piperi's favorite food is her grandpa's ravioli, and her second favorite food is biscuits and gravy. Something that you should know about her, especially if you are in her class, is that she does not like when students don't listen – particularly if she has a very fun lesson planned.

One thing that she did as a child was scare her sister Modie's very old horse so that it ran away. Modie just stood there in awe, while Ms. Piperi laughed away.

Ms. Witt

By Kaitlee Tellez

Gabby Witt is a very nice teacher who teaches 5th Grade. Ms. Witt began teaching here at Grace Academy in the summer. Here is my interview with Ms. Witt:

Q: How do you like teaching here at Grace Academy?

A: "I love it here. It's a great opportunity!"

Q: How do you like the students here?

A: They're wonderful and very, very thoughtful.

Q: What is your favorite subject to teach?

A: I love to teach E.L.A.

Q: Do you enjoy making friends with teachers?

A: Yes I love it- they're all my best friends!

Q: What is your favorite holiday?

A: My favorite holiday is Christmas, because I get to see my family!



Grace Academy Welcomes New Students

By Tianna Parnter

Grace Academy welcomed 17 new students this year. Most of them come from Thailand and Jamaica; some are even from Africa. *North Star News* interviewed some of these students to get their impressions of life at Grace. All said they are very comfortable here, even though they may be new in town. To all of the new students: Welcome to Grace Academy! Here, we get to know a few of the newcomers:



The new fifth graders



Heavyhn Kimber is in the 6th grade. She is 11 years old and is from Hartford, Connecticut. The thing that she likes about the teachers at Grace Academy is that they teach very creatively. The clubs that she has taken so far are cooking, robotics, and pottery. What she likes about the school is the food and the creative things. One thing she is hoping to improve is to have grades of 90% and higher. Her favorite subject is math and she loves basketball. Her favorite book is *Saving Zoe*.



Princess Mason is in the 5th grade. She is 10 years old and is from Hartford, CT. She has 5 siblings. Her favorite sports are football, swimming, and basketball. Her favorite subject is science. She has participated in the robotics and photography clubs. Her favorite books are the Graveyard books. She likes to write about scary things and she likes poetry. She thinks that it's possible she might come back to teach at Grace Academy. Something she is hoping to improve in is sports.



Mu Kue is in the 6th grade. She is 12 years old, and is from Thailand. She has two siblings. Her favorite sport is soccer. Her favorite subject is math. Her favorite food is Chinese food. She likes to write about friendship, the world, and life. The thing that she likes about the teachers here is that they are funny. She likes poetry. Last quarter, Mu Kue was a member of the newspaper club. She likes any kind of book series.



Nary Oo is in the 5th grade. She is nine years old and she is from Thailand. She has three siblings. Her favorite sport is tennis. Her favorite subject is social studies. The clubs that she has taken are creative writing and newspaper. She likes poetry and writing about peace and nature. Her favorite book is Nancy Drew. What she likes about the school is the teachers and the activities. Her favorite food is noodles. One thing that she is hoping to improve is her diet: she plans on eating more vegetables.



Janelle Darkwah is in the 6th grade. She is 11 years old and she is from Hartford, CT. She has five siblings. Her favorite sports are basketball and football. Her favorite classes are social studies and Girls Space. Her favorite food is chicken with rice. Her favorite book is *The Mortal Instruments*. The things she likes most about Grace Academy is lunch and the playground. One thing that she hopes to improve is to help the teachers out more. The clubs that she has taken are cooking and newspaper. She likes to write about her emotions and her family. Her favorite movie is City of Bones. She would come back to teach.



Kaitlee Tellez

Wordsearch: Winter Holiday Season

F A M I L Y A T N A S I C K H
 W Q I D I A S E L D N A C R O
 E J C O E D G O V R I D C E T
 N C H R I S T M A S T R E E C
 A K Y N Y G A W E S G N E D H
 C W E A O N P M M G E B C N O
 Y A K M J I T E T W G A C I C
 D N R E U K H Q Y S R N C E O
 N Z U N W E S E M O I H O R L
 A A T T L E A K L Y A R I G A
 C A E H P R E S E N T S H W T
 U P T V S H D T U P K S O C E
 C E T E O T E K A L F W O N S
 B M V A L L A B W O N S B R Z
 N E V B F H S N O W M A N Q F

BETHLEHEM	CANDLES	CANDY CANE
CAROLS	CHANUKAH	CHRISTMAS
CHRISTMAS TREE	EGGNOG	FAMILY
FROSTY	HOT CHOCOLATE	JOY
KWANZAA	LOVE	NEW YEARS EVE
ORNAMENT	PRESENTS	REINDEER
SANTA	SNOWBALL	SNOWFLAKE
SNOWMAN	THREE KINGS DAY	TURKEY



Comedy Corner

Why did the banana go to the hospital?

Answer: Because it wasn't peeling very well

Why did the chicken cross the road?

Answer: Because he saw a HOT CHICK!!

What did the paper say to the pencil?

Answer: Write on

What did one elevator say to the other elevator?

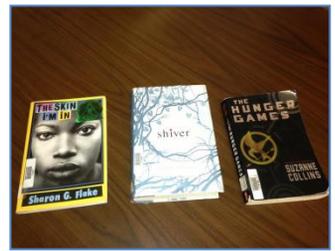
Answer: I think I'm coming down with something

Why was the belt arrested?

Answer: Because it held up some pants

Book Roundup

By Thalia Ortiz



Hunger Games

Author: Suzanne Collins

The book, **Hunger Games**, follows a young woman, Katniss Everdeen. Katniss lives in a society where people are divided into twelve different districts. The one thing that is similar about the districts is that all districts must participate in the Hunger Games. The districts must enroll two tributes, one male and one female, and all twenty-four young males and females must fight until only one person stands alive. After Katniss volunteers for her little sister, Primrose, Katniss must decide what the next step is to survive.

Shiver

Author: Maggie Stiefvater

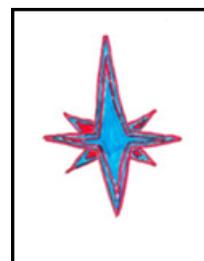
The book, **Shiver**, is about a girl named Grace. As a little girl, Grace was attacked by a pack of wolves. Since then she has had a strange connection with the wolves. What Grace doesn't know is that the wolves are actually werewolves and the wolf she has always been drawn to is actually a boy named Sam. Sam, in his human form, falls in love with Grace, but this love brings danger, happiness, and most of all, secrets. With the winter approaching, will their love last, or will Sam turn back into his wolf form forever?

The Skin I'm In

Author: Sharon Flake

Maleeka is a girl that never quite fit in. Her darker skin always made her different from others. At her school she has a group of friends, Char and the twins, that take advantage of her, call her names, and reflect poorly upon her self-esteem. When her school introduces a new teacher, Ms. Saunders, she knows right away she'll bring nothing but trouble for her. Little did she know, Ms. Saunders does whatever she can to help Maleeka, but eventually it's Maleeka's turn to stand up for herself. Will she choose what's right for herself or for her friends?

*All three of these books are available in the Grace Academy library!



Nary Oo