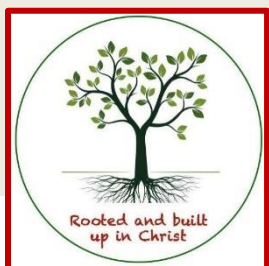




# THE VIKING VOICE

GET THE GOOD NEWS FROM GRACE LUTHERAN!



## DID YOU KNOW?

### GRACE HAS A SOCIAL WORKER

Did you know there is a social worker at Grace? Her name is Lisa Guagenti – the students call her Mrs. G. She is employed by Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois to provide six hours of social work services per week to Grace School. Mrs. G's credentials include a Master's in Social Work (MSW), a License in Clinical Social Work (LCSW) and a Type 73 School Social Work certificate. Mrs. G. has worked at Grace for 15 years, typically on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10am-1pm. Services provided vary depending on need and include crisis intervention, teacher and parent consultation, Erin's Law education (sexual abuse prevention) and individual counseling for students struggling with an issue that is interfering with their academic success. Mrs. G. can be contacted by either leaving her a private voicemail at (708) 366-6900 extension 217 or leaving a message with Mrs. Maggio in the school office.



## SCOOP FROM THE SCHOOL



### WALK-A-THON RECAP:

**Walk with Grace =Wow-** Our 8<sup>th</sup> annual *Walk with Grace* was a rousing success! After all expenses we raised over **\$28,000**, our largest amount to-date. That means not only did we deliver a truckload of much-needed supplies to the **Ronald McDonald House**, but we were also able to donate over **\$2,800** to that very worthy organization. That means we still brought in over **\$26,000** for our school surpassing our goal! Thanks to all of our volunteers before and during the event. Thank you to our sponsors that helped us cover most of our costs. And a huge thank you to all of our parents, guardians, families and friends of Grace. Without your support none of it would have been possible, and we wouldn't have gotten to see Mr. Koehne as a clown!!

**Grace Loves Good Food-** Our Chipotle fundraiser back on September 30<sup>th</sup> brought in an incredible **\$777!** Thanks to all of you and your friends that braved the line to help our cause.

**Way to Go-** Our donation competition was won by our **3<sup>rd</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> graders** and they celebrated with a fun chapel buddy breakfast (see picture). The class that brought in the most money for the walk-a-thon was our **Senior Kindergarteners!** Check out the pictures of them enjoying their Pizza/Popsicle Party.

**Pop Tab Collection-** Grace School has been collecting pop/seltzer tabs for Ronald McDonald House and we would appreciate your family collecting and bringing them in. Every little bit helps!

### GET INVOLVED WITH GRACEFUL EVENING:

**Join the Team** -This year's Graceful Evening will be on March 14, 2020 at the Nineteenth Century Club in Oak Park. As you can imagine, we need a lot of help coordinating this fundraising event for the school. If you would like to help out in any way, please email [gracefulevening@graceriverforest.org](mailto:gracefulevening@graceriverforest.org) or reach out to this year's co-chairs – Emily Hartung and Amanda Steelman.

**Support Us with Whiskey** – There will be a fun, new event at Graceful Evening this year – a Whiskey Pull. Identical to our traditional Wine Pull, the Whiskey Pull will feature Whiskey, Scotch and Bourbons priced at \$30 or more. To get ready for this new addition in March, the Hartung's invite you to "Mix and Mingle" at their home on November 16<sup>th</sup>. For more information and to RSVP, please click on this link: <http://evite.me/6HJy2mUzSW>

### MARKETING/ENROLLMENT MINUTES:

**First Look Fridays-** Do you know a family who would like to know more about Grace? Invite them to our upcoming *First Look Friday* on November 15th, from 8:30 to 10:00 am. Not able to be here at 8:30 am? We understand! Our school tours will be ongoing to ensure flexibility for interested parents to join us.

**Vikings for Life! Share your story!** We are currently collecting stories from former Vikings. Our alumni are very important to us and we want to honor them. If you are (or know of) a Grace Alumni, let us know. You may submit candidates to be featured, set up a time for coffee and conversation to share a story, and more. Contact Jenn Beasley at [JBeasley@GraceRiverForest.org](mailto:JBeasley@GraceRiverForest.org)

**Thankful for Grace-** November is a time to reflect on what we are thankful for. Jenn Beasley is putting together a Facebook campaign to take our Grace thankfulness to the next level. You are invited to post on our School Facebook page throughout the month of November and share what about Grace you are thankful for. If you don't want to post, send your thankful thoughts to Jenn and she will create a post for you. **#ThankfulforGrace**



CLASSROOM CHATTER

**PK:** PK has been learning about Autumn changes. We took nature walks for a scavenger hunt and collections for the discovery table (see picture). We even found a spider! And observed the way it moves in a bug box. All items were returned to the earth.

**SK:** Ms. Johnson’s Senior Kindergarten superstars painted pumpkins and created their own patch outside of the classroom with their fantastic fourth grade chapel buddies.

**2nd:** 2nd graders have created and presented Cereal Box Book Reports. They read a book of choice and imaginatively summarized their book, created artwork and a game, and shared it with their classmates – all on a creatively decorated former box of cereal!

**3rd:** Ms. Watson’s third grade students are collecting cans to help Grace Church with their canned food drive. Any and all donations of canned items are appreciated. The items can be dropped off outside of their classroom, or if you would like to donate money you can leave it with Mrs. Maggio. Come worship with them at the 3rd grade-led chapel service on Wednesday, November 6th.

**4th:** The fourth graders have been studying animal classification and took a field trip to the Shedd Aquarium where they got to dissect squid. They've enjoyed learning about the design process and they had the special privilege to hear from Jeff Blackman and his design work at NASA. They look forward to having several parents come in for our Hispanic Heritage festival (rescheduled to 11/15). The fourth graders LOVE spending time with their SK chapel buddies and have spent time reading to them and painting pumpkins together.

**5th:** Mrs. Massmann’s fifth graders joined their sixth grades friends to learn more about Chicago’s history on a field trip to the DuSable Museum. We are grateful that our visiting art lecturer, Rhea Sprecher, was able to give the students background knowledge before the experience. The students then toured the museum which is focused on the artwork of Margaret Burroughs and the legacy of Harold Washington, their background knowledge impressed many of the museum staff members. It was a great morning for all and a true hidden gem for most of the students. It is such a blessing to be able to learn outside of the classroom, they are excited to explore the Field Museum next month. Fifth grade has also started a ten-week program led by RFPD Officer Ransom called “Too Good for Drugs.”

**6th:** In addition to visiting the DuSable Museum last month, sixth grade is studying the country of Egypt and will be heading to the Field Museum with the fifth graders in early November to visit the Egyptian section along with the other exhibits.

**7th/8th:** Our seventh and eighth grade students enjoyed September in Springfield. Our junior high students traveled to our capital to learn about the history of our great state.

**Art:** The art studio is bustling as always. This month our second graders will begin a unit on batik and our fourth-grade class will be learning the ancient Japanese art of fish painting known as Gyotaku. Supplies are always needed to help foster our young artists, especially 32-ounce plastic jars.

**P.E.:** Mrs. Underhill leads P.E. for 1st-8th grades multiple times a week. Grace realizes that physical exertion leads to a more focused mind for studies and thus we thank Mrs. Underhill for all that she does for our students. The 5-8th graders are still working on learning how to use their P.E. lockers and open/close a combination lock. If your student needs extra practice, please let Mrs. Underhill know as she will set up a time to practice with them. Also, "loaner" uniforms will be disappearing as students are learning to depend on these too much and not owning the responsibility of being on time and prepared by bringing their own uniforms to P.E. class. 5-8th P.E. highlights this fall include: learning skills in volleyball, football, and Spikeball. Basketball and racket sports are coming soon. Workout days have been heart racing with Concordia bleacher running, circuit workouts, and Tabata waves. Coming soon will be workouts running stairs and using the bikes. All levels of students are working on jump rope skills and alternating jumping into the rope as a class. Younger students have enjoyed secret agent tag, throwing skills, and color relays.

**Ms. Washburn:** On Wednesday, November 6th, there will be a Grace Alumni Volleyball Game from 5:30-7:30 pm. If your child would like to be part of this fun activity, please RSVP to Kristine Washburn at [kwashburn@graceriverforest.org](mailto:kwashburn@graceriverforest.org) your attendance and if you would like us to count you in our pizza order. \$4 for two slices of pizza and pop.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**3rd Grade Led Chapel Service**  
Nov 6, 8:30 am

**Alumni Volleyball Game**  
Nov 6, 5:30-7:30 pm

**A Graceful Evening Meeting**  
Nov 6, 7 pm

**Support the Sports Pizza Fundraiser**  
Nov 8

**Cub Scouts Meeting**  
Nov 8, 7 pm

**GLC Middle School Retreat**  
Nov 8-10

**1st/2nd Grade Sing in Church**  
Nov 10, 8:30 am

**5th/6th Grade Field Trip - Field Museum**  
Nov 12

**Faculty Lunch Coverage**  
Nov 13

**First Look Friday**  
Nov 15, 8:30-10 am

**3rd/4th Grade Hispanic Heritage Festival**  
Nov 15

**Hot Lunch**  
Nov 15

**GPO Father/Son Event**  
Nov 15, 6:30-9 pm

**Whiskey of the World Tasting for A Graceful Evening**  
Nov 16, 7 pm

**Tuneful Wednesdays/Strike Team Help Lead Worship**  
Nov 17, 11 am

**Family Fun Friday**  
Nov 22, 6-8 pm

**Junior High Dance**  
Nov 22, 7 pm

**3rd Grade Girl Scouts**  
Nov 25, 3 pm

**Thanksgiving Break**  
Nov 27-29

**5th-8th Grade Choir/Strike Team Help Lead Advent Service**  
Dec 4, 7 pm

**GPO Ladies’ Ornament Exchange**  
Dec 5, 7-9 pm

**Room Parent/GPO Meeting**  
Dec 6, 8:20 am

**Hot Lunch**  
Dec 6

IN THE KNOW WITH GPO



Mother/Daughter Event

On Friday, October 18, parent volunteers transformed our school into paradise. Over 120 mothers and daughters of Grace Lutheran School enjoyed a beach party. The night included an exciting volleyball game, a limbo contest, nail painting, shell creature creations and a special mother/daughter “message in a bottle” craft that made for a very meaningful takeaway gift. Thanks to the volunteers who helped before, during, and after the event to make it such a success!

Father/Son Event

Next up are the boys both young and old! On Friday, November 15 from 6:30-8:30 pm, GPO will host a **Father/Son Indoor Backyard Party!** There will be bags (cornhole), ping pong and basketball, as well as small carnival games and a craft. There will be activities for every age! Hot dogs and brats with sides will be served for dinner with ice cream sundaes to finish off this fun event. The cost will be \$25 per father/son and \$10 for each additional son. The invite came in Tuesday folders last week or can be retrieved from Mrs. Maggio. More hands make light work so please sign up to help if you can!



Coming in December...

Ladies’ Ornament Exchange

December 5, 7-9 pm all women parents are invited to attend this welcome respite from the stressors of the holiday season. Bring an ornament to give away and receive one to take home. Enjoy conversation and community with other Grace Lutheran parents.

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

CHERISHING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Christmas is always a magical time, but at Grace it is majestic! Christmas Eve is a special time for Christians around the world as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. At Grace we have a very special tradition that highlights the children of our school and church community. You and your children will not want to miss this! The early evening worship services on Christmas Eve at 4:15 and 6:00 pm, are led by the children in grades 1-8. The candle-lit cross (actually flashlights for safety purposes) formed by the students in grades 5-8 begins the service for the 71<sup>st</sup> consecutive year. Students prepare carefully for the responsibility of leading worship and look forward to sharing the joy of Christ’s birth on Christmas Eve. The tradition lives on in the hearts of students even after they graduate from Grace, and alumni return year after year to experience the beauty of this service. [Go to this link](#) to find and see more information about the Christmas Eve services, including the link to a [form](#) that will help our directors organize this years’ service. Very soon you will be able to find recordings to the Christmas Eve music and sheets to help your child(ren) learn the words to the songs. We know that Christmas Eve at Grace become a meaningful part of your family’s holiday celebration – this year and for years to come. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to ask the directors: Pastor Lyle, Mr. Koehne, Ms. Dennen and Pastor Costello.

ROOM PARENT ROUND-UP

**SHOP AND SMILE FOR GRACE-** With holiday shopping in full swing here’s a way to give back to Grace while crossing off your to-do list. [AmazonSmile](#) is a simple and automatic way for you to support Grace Lutheran every time you shop, at no cost to you. Go to [smile.amazon.com](#) and select “*Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church of River Forest*” to direct your donations before you begin shopping. Every time you log into your normal Amazon account and shop through AmazonSmile, every eligible purchase will result in a donation to our wonderful church and school!

**EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSURES-** It’s hard to believe that we are already talking about emergency weather alerts, or maybe it’s not based on our wintery Halloween. If there is ever a school closure, whether due to extreme weather or building issues, school administration will send a school-wide text and email to notify you as soon as the decision is made to close or delay school. Closures will also be shared with the major news outlets. Please make sure your phone and email information are correct so you do not miss any notifications.

Don’t worry for all of you parents with kiddos in the “K’s” (PK, JK, SK), you will have you own Christmas program. The children will be presenting the “true reason for the season” - Christ’s birth - through story and song (and adorable costumes). Make sure you save the date for Friday, December 13th at 10am. For more information, please contact Senior Kindergarten teacher, Jackie Johnson ([jjohnson@graceriverforest.org](mailto:jjohnson@graceriverforest.org)).



PITCH IN!



FIRST LOOK FRIDAYS:  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080b4ca8ac22a5fc1-first3>

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> GRADES SUPPORT THE NIGHT MINISTRY:  
[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/night\\_stockings](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/night_stockings)

GPO FATHER/SON EVENT: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/father-son19>



HAPPENIN' AROUND THE HALLS

**FALL SPORTS FOLLOW-UP:** Our Grace Vikings had another fantastic fall season on the court and on the course.

**Volleyball-** Grace's 2019 volleyball season ended on October 29. The Varsity Girls won the Trinity Burr Ridge Tournament and improved greatly individually and as a team. The Varsity Boys represented a young, improving team (all boys 5-8<sup>th</sup> grades), led by returning players, Peter Armstrong and Layne Hammer, both eighth graders. The JV Girls and the fifth and sixth grade boys concluded the season with a JV Tournament in Arlington Heights, playing five consecutive games. Grace athletes modeled the school's values and supported one another across age and gender. Be on the lookout for open gyms and other volleyball playing opportunities throughout the school year.

**Cross Country-** Congratulations to all 40+ runners on their sensational season. Every runner (from third through eighth grade) ran their hearts out at practice and meets. They not only learned to love the sport but also learned the importance of perseverance and pushing themselves to be their best each and every time. The season concluded on Saturday, October 26 at the National Meet in Mequon, WI, where ten girls (who took fifth in state) and ten boys (who took third in state) raced against 39 other schools from 15 different states. The boys raced as a tight team (led by Peter Armstrong who finished eighth in the state), proving age doesn't matter when you have determination. The girls took the course next led by eighth grader Anna Scholtens who took fourth place and earned All-American honors (she also set a new school record for girls' cross country at the state meet). This was truly a historic season for Coach Brooks and the entire team.

**WINTER SPORTS PREVIEW:** At Grace in the winter it's all about basketball! We are excited for the great things to come for our teams this season! Our Varsity Girls (7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>) are starting out strong with practice this week. Their competitive season begins at a Trinity High School tournament November 15-17. Varsity Boys (7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>), JV Girls (5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>), and JV Boys (5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>) teams start next week. *NEW THIS YEAR* – Grace will have a fourth-grade co-ed team with games to start in December every Saturday (schedule coming soon). Go Vikings!!

**80 YEARS OF CUB SCOUTS:** Grace Lutheran Cub Scouts started their new year, which according to District records is our 80<sup>th</sup>! This is also our second year with girls in the pack! So, we are now, truly a family scouting group! So far, the year is full of experiences both old and new. Our 12 scouts, including four girls and eight boys, have participated in a number of traditional scouting activities such as hiking and campfires (did we mention the s'mores?). Additionally, we participated in our district's first ever Camporee, which offered overnight camping and lots of activities including airplane and rocket building, fishing, wood and leather working, and so much more. We still have several exciting activities ahead, including our world-famous Pinewood Derby, serving pancakes to the Grace Community, and an overnight activity at one of Chicago's museums or other fun spots for kids. (Also, did we mention more s'mores?) If you are interested in joining or helping the Pack 66, please contact Committee Chair, Emily Southfield ([EmilySouthfield@sbcglobal.net](mailto:EmilySouthfield@sbcglobal.net)) or Cubmaster, Jeff Blackman ([Jeff@LaurusHomes.com](mailto:Jeff@LaurusHomes.com)).

**GIRL SCOUTS ARE BACK:** "Make new friends, but keep the old..." Girls Scouts are back at Grace! New parent, Megan Galeener, has started a Brownie troop with our third-grade girls. They will serve the community by running a blanket drive for Hepzibah this month and serving the OPRF food pantry and cleaning up local parks throughout the year. For more information you can contact her at [mebrubak@gmail.com](mailto:mebrubak@gmail.com).

**FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADES SUPPORT THE NIGHT MINISTRY:** Traditionally our fifth and sixth graders pack Christmas stockings for those struggling with poverty or homelessness, working with an agency called **The Night Ministry** ([www.thenightministry.org](http://www.thenightministry.org)). Congregational members sew the stockings, and students raise money through a school wide game called "Penny Wars" (see below). We ask for donations of everyday essentials that fill the stockings, and the funds help provide whatever else is needed. This meaningful experience would not be possible without the help of Grace families. Thank you in advance for your generosity. Find the details at this link: [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/night\\_stockings](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/night_stockings).

**PENNY WARS THIS WEEK:** Bring your pennies or other coins for next week. PK, JK, SK, and grades 1-2 are collecting coins. Grades 3-8 are having a Penny War. The Penny War is November 4-8. Put pennies in your own jar and all other coins or bills in your rival's jar. Pennies are positive points and dollar bills and silver coins are negative points. The class with the most points earns a treat. All proceeds benefit [The Night Ministry](http://www.thenightministry.org).

**LETTERS FOR THE VETERANS:** Grace students are writing thank you letters to our veterans. If you have a Veteran or military personnel in the family that would enjoy a letter, please share their address with us. Please send to [kwashburn@graceriverforest.org](mailto:kwashburn@graceriverforest.org).

