



THE WHITEFIELD MONTHLY

Newsletter December 2016

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Bolton, Donna	12/1
Huss, Tanner	12/1
Wright, Jill	12/3
Bowman, Shannon	12/5
Whitfill, Lindsay	12/10
Abbott, Shelly	12/22
Samples, Debbie	12/28
Fow, Diane	12/29

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From the Head of School

Who are We?

by Gary Mounce, Head of School

"Your greatest, longest-lasting, most trusted asset is ... who you really are." — Alfred Kahn

This past July marked the start of Whitefield Academy's fortieth year of supporting Christian families by providing an educational opportunity based upon biblical truth and principles; enabling their students to grow academically, emotionally, and more important spiritually. Over the years, we have seen programs come and gone, the school has gone through name changes, logos have evolved, the curriculum has been revamped and adapted, and even individuals have transitioned as God has worked to communicate the identity of Whitefield Academy. Three and a half years ago, when I became Head of School, it was clear Whitefield Academy had a strong academic program which was fostered by a supportive family environment and an overwhelming commitment to a Christ-centered Biblically-based curriculum.

As we approach the new year, we will continue to promote the identity God has worked to develop over the past forty years. While print and radio marketing serve a purpose, marketing studies reveal, especially as it related to schools, the most significant means of communication is through 'word of mouth'. This has been my experience as well. Having the opportunity to interview many families over the past thirty years, well over 85% stated they heard about the school from neighbors, coworkers, friends, etc...

So, we would like to ask for your help in spreading the word about what God is doing through Whitefield Academy. You can do this in two ways. One, by simply sharing with your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers what Whitefield has meant to you and or your children. Secondly, we would encourage you to share your story with us. We have started a 'Tell Our Story' campaign which allows us to promote how Whitefield is making a difference in the lives of our students, families and community. We would greatly appreciate your willingness to be a part of this. Your story can be mailed or emailed to Whitefield Academy in care of Whitney Hopperton—whitney.hopperton@whitefield.org. If you wish, feel free to send a picture along with your story.

Thank you for the opportunity to assist in the education of your student(s). May you and your family have a Merry Christmas and blessed New Year!

Mr. Gary Mounce



Veterans' Day Service

by Chris Vaughn, Veterans Day Coordinator

On November 11th, Whitefield Academy celebrated the 19th Annual Veterans' Day Service. This year's theme was Foundations of Freedom. The morning started with breakfast in the nearly full gymnasium, served by our Junior class. The program focused on the political, religious, and military foundations of our country, with a special emphasis on the Combat Engineering forces of the various branches. Our speaker, Norman D. Raderer, Capt. (CEC) USNR (Ret.) represented this group through his service in the Seabees. The art class recreated an Army Corps of Engineers recruiting poster with thousands of push pins. A special thanks to all who volunteered their time and services to help recognize those that serve us on a daily basis.

Next year we will be celebrating the 20th year of the Whitefield Academy Veterans' Day Service on Friday, November 11th, 2017. Our working theme "Legacy" will examine both the lasting impact that the Veteran has, but also the impact that the last 19 years have had on our students. We would like for Whitefield Academy families to help spread the word to any alumni who have previously participated in the service and also those who have taken positions of public service in the military, police, fire, and emergency services. We would like to incorporate as many of our former students as possible through pictures, video, live speakers, choir, and in other ways throughout the program. Please contact Chris Vaughn at cvaughn@whitefield.org if you have contact information for any who may like to participate.





PTF INFORMATION



Thank you to all who participated in the Yankee Candle Sales. So far, we have raised \$6,500 for our school!! You can still support our school by ordering online til December 15th. The pick up date for orders turned in will be announced soon.

Have a MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

Around the School

Preschool

by Lisa Hammond, Preschool Director

This month we are excited to celebrate the season of Jesus' birth with all of the children at preschool. This is a busy time for all of us, yet we are all trying to take time and celebrate the real meaning of this special holiday. As a parent, making sure that you teach your children about Jesus during this season can be a decision that will impact your family for generations.

Christmas decorations offer a great opportunity for you to teach the children about Jesus. Talk about how the Christmas tree symbolizes that Jesus is eternal life. I recently talked to a family member about how we put light on our tree to show that Jesus is the light of the world. As you select and wrap gifts during December, talk to your child about how Jesus is God's greatest gift.

As busy and as much as we want the holidays to be perfect, it is more important that we take time to teach our children about Jesus. This is a special time for every child and it is so important that we lay a strong foundation in their Christian walk. Small teachable moments at the preschool age do just that.

Preschool Dates to Remember:

- December 16 - Christmas Parties – See Teacher notes for specific information
- January 2 – Monday Teacher In Service Day – No Children
- January 3 – Tuesday Classes are back in session
- January 9 – Online re-enrollment for 2016-17 school year
- January 16 – No school –Martin Luther King Jr, Day



Around the School

Elementary

by Dr. Bruce Jacobson, Elementary Principal

The Elementary Students have been involved in various activities recently around our school



Mrs. Debbie Dadey came and read to Mrs. Adkisson's 2nd grade class her new book titled **Mermaid Tales**. Mrs. Dadey is the author and co-author of 162 books for children, including the Mermaid Tales series from Simon and Schuster and the beloved Adventures of the Bailey School Kids from Scholastic books. Mrs. Dadey is a former teacher and librarian. Mrs. Dadey is the aunt of Nixon and Blakely Fow.



Veterans Day Chapel was a special time for students in grades three through twelve to honor and observe men and women who have courageously served our country.

The elementary students singing the "**Grand Ole Flag**" during the recent Veterans Day program held on Friday, November 11, 2016



Kindergarten classes participated in Thanksgiving Day programs for their parents.





Around the School

Middle School

by Dr. Bruce Jacobson, Principal

Christmas is traditionally a Christian holiday, but in modern times it has been embraced by people of all faiths and cultures around the world. Although there are many differences between the ways in which cultures celebrate Christmas, there are also many similarities too. Discover how Christmas is celebrated in some other parts of the world, below:

India

The Christian community in India has many Christmas traditions that would be familiar to us, such as attending church services, singing carols and exchanging gifts. However, they do not decorate a traditional Christmas tree: instead they decorate banana or mango trees. They also make sure that they have a large stock of home-made sweets for visiting family and friends and often place clay lamps on the roof of their house to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Greece

In Greece, Christmas Eve marks the end of 40 days of fasting. It is celebrated with the baking of 'Christopsomo' or 'Christ bread'. Families decorate the crust of the large, sweet loaves with symbols of their professions. Christmas trees are not traditional in Greece. Instead, most houses have a bowl with a piece of wire across it. They tie a piece of basil to the wire and fill the bowl with water to keep the basil alive. Sprinkling the water from the bowl around the house is thought to keep bad spirits away.

Egypt

Did you know that in Egypt (*and some other countries*) Christmas is celebrated on January 7, not December 25? Egyptian Christians will fast for the 40 days before Christmas (*eating no meat, poultry or dairy*). They break their fast after midnight mass on Christmas Eve with a meal known as 'Fata' (*bread, rice, garlic and boiled meat*).

Denmark

In Denmark, and many other European countries, presents are exchanged on Christmas Eve instead of Christmas Day. The presents are opened after a big meal has been shared and everyone has danced around the Christmas tree. In Denmark, children know Father Christmas as 'Julemanden' which means 'Christmas man'.

Ethiopia

Ethiopians call the Christmas celebrations 'Ganna' and celebrate Christmas Day on January 7. Traditionally, Ethiopians fast completely on Christmas Eve (*January 6*) and then get dressed in a special white garment called a 'shamma' at dawn and go to a church service to celebrate. Christmas food in Ethiopia includes a traditional dish called 'wat', which is a thick and spicy stew containing meat, vegetables and sometimes eggs.

Venezuela

Traditional nativity scenes, depicting the birth of Jesus, are set up in many countries. In Venezuela, a 'pesebre' is built out of a frame and canvas before being painted. Like a nativity scene, it depicts the birth of Jesus, including the entire landscape, hills, mountains and valleys, with Bethlehem and the manger at its centre.

Lebanon

In Lebanon, about two weeks before Christmas, children plant seeds in cotton wool. They water them every day leading up to Christmas and when the seeds have sprouted and grown green stems, they add them to a nativity scene, surrounding the manger with grass.

Australia

In Australia we enjoy a hot summer Christmas rather than the cold European and North American white Christmas. Instead of sitting inside by the fire, Australians enjoy the sun by having pool parties and barbecues, or by going to the beach, where we build sandcastles instead of snowmen. Seafood is also very popular, instead of a hot roast turkey.

Source: Teacher and Student Education Resources



Around the School

High School

by Gary Mounce, High School Principal

LIFE IN THE FAST LANE!

"I wanted to figure out why I was so busy, but I couldn't find the time to do it." - unknown

Life can be busy; even for our students. As the semester comes to a close, a big focus for the students will be their upcoming finals. More specifically, it will be finding the time to prepare and study for finals. Many of them are still learning how to prioritize their time and discipline themselves to study (in a timely fashion). As it comes down to crunch time for your student(s), you can help. We are all busy but as



parents can help our students succeed in school. Below are a few suggestions which may provide end of the semester relief for both of you:

- Let them know you care and want to support their success
- Increase your level of interest in their classes / grades
- Work with your student to make sure they have set priorities for studying; now is the time to start
- Help your student to know their 'prime time' for studying – some of us are early-birds others are night-owls
- Know their finals schedule and identify which days they have key finals
- Make sure they get rest and sleep

* Some suggestion came from, "The Parent Institute"

UPCOMING DATES

Dec. 1	Senior Trip Payment Due
Dec. 2	Senior Lunch
Dec. 12-16	Finals

Jan. 13	Senior Lunch
Jan. 17-20	Spiritual Emphasis Week
Jan. 27	Senior Lunch
Jan. 27	AP Test Fees Due
Jan. 31	Community Service Hours due for seniors
Feb. 6-10	HS Spirit Week

Important Dates

December 2016

- 1 Admissions Open House 6:00-8:00pm (East/Fegenbush)
- 5-9 Scholastic Book Fair
- 6 All School Christmas Program 7:00pm
- 8 PK4 Parent Kindergarten Info Meeting 7:00pm
- 9 GSP Applications due to Mrs. Moon
- 10 ACT Test Date
- 12-16 Finals Week
- 16 2nd Quarter Ends
- 19-1/2 No School – Christmas Break

January 2017

- 2 Teacher In-Service
- 3 Students Return to School
- 4 Report Cards



REMINDERS

From the Health Office

From the Health Office

Parents, the holidays are upon us. This is the time of year when we are running around like crazy at the malls and stores with large crowds of people, hugs and kisses from family and friends, getting exposed to lots of germs. Please get your yearly flu shots. It only takes exposure to one sick person for it to begin spreading it thru the masses.

Here is a cheat for you to refer to in the event you become ill. ANYONE can get the flu.

<u>Symptom</u>	<u>Cold</u>	<u>Flu</u>
Cough	Cough	Cough
Chest discomfort/pain	Mild	Severe
Fatigue, weakness	Mild	Severe
Fever/chills	Rare	High (101-104 degrees); may last several days
Gen. aches and pains	Mild	Common, severe
Headache	Rare	Common, severe
Sneezing	Common	Rare
Sore throat	Common	Common
Stuffy/runny nose	Common	Common
Duration	2-14 days	7-14 days

Stay Healthy

- Wash your hands with soap and water at least 20 seconds.
- Don't touch your face (the T-Zone) when you're out in public. This is how all germs enter our bodies. Keep hand sanitizer with you.
- Colds and viruses can live for a few hours on phones, doorknobs and surfaces. The influenza virus may live up to six hours! This is very important for the elderly and those at high risk. The flu occurs at higher rate in people with asthma, diabetes or heart conditions.

Control Stress-Get plenty of rest, eat healthy, drink plenty of water to keep your body hydrated. Remember the flu season can run until May.

In the event you become ill and think it's the flu, go to your doctor where, if diagnosed in the early stages, you can get a prescription for Tamiflu. This will cut down on duration of the flu if it is caught early.

PLEASE KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME IF THEY ARE NOT WELL. If they are diagnosed with the flu, a doctor's note is required to return back to class.

Spread the word not the germ. <><

From the Cafeteria

Please check lunch accounts prior to returning to school in January.