

Giff Hill School Newsletter

October 21st, 2011



Good Day Parents,

We have now been in School for 7 weeks and the children have done a great job of engaging in the learning process. Evidenced in their excitement and impatience, however, I have seen that they can become disrespectful of one another and their teachers. As our teaching partner I ask that you spend some time this weekend talking with your child(ren) about the importance of honoring one other and their teachers. We, as parents and teachers, collectively and individually, need to keep reinforcing our no-teasing policy to the children by explaining that even comments that are intended as jokes feel hurtful and can end up ruining someone's day. Students don't always realize they have crossed the line with a rude remark and if we don't stop and talk with them, they will not realize they have hurt someone.

Last week was an incredibly thought provoking time off island for three members of our community. I spent a most interesting 4 days with fellow island teachers and civic leaders last week at the Island Institute Teachers and Sustainable Living Conferences in Rockland, Maine.

In a wholly different setting, Senior Patrick Smith accompanied by high school science/math teacher Jim Willen had the incredible opportunity to attend the World Food Prize in Des Moines, Iowa. Below are excerpts from a thank you note to ISU EARTH Director, Jen Bousset which will convey what an amazing experience they had.

"Patrick and I were really overwhelmed by the kindness that you have all shown and the invaluable educational experience that we both had. Both of us enjoyed the tour of the college and were quite surprised and excited to meet three ex-presidents and one current president from Africa (and ex-president Lula from Brazil too).

I personally found the tour of Iowa State and the research facility extremely interesting. I hope that we can build upon this association to establish an academic relationship with our high school. I hope that in the future, we can introduce more high level science to our school. Perhaps some of our students can engage in research studies with some of the Iowa State staff...

I was quite surprised by the participants at the World Food Prize too. To actually meet and converse with former heads of state is a truly unique experience. Yes, the president of Mozambique was on Patrick's review panel. Patrick was very excited (and nervous too) but he really enjoyed the experience... I can't imagine at the age of 16 of being addressed by a former head of state about my research paper...

I am going to have Patrick prepare a presentation for the students at our school. The presentation will discuss the Iowa State tour and the World Food Prize and will be presented during an all school assembly. Because of the kindness and generosity that you and others have shown to our school, I want to make sure that all GHS students know about the extraordinary opportunities that are available to them through you

Giff Hill School Newsletter

October 21st, 2011



and Iowa State. GHS is very fortunate to have dedicated people like you to help our students broaden their educational perspective. Thanks for all that you have done.”

The plans for **CULTURALYPSO**, GHS’ unique celebration for D. Hamilton Jackson Day, are coming together very nicely. Each grade will be sponsoring a booth or an activity. Lots of good food will be sold and it will be a fun day for everyone. Students will report to school at the normal time, participate in the event on the Upper Field and be dismissed at noon. If you would like to help out, please let Ms. Angelita or Ms. Jill know.

All art students are drawing designs to be reproduced on various forms of products- cups, plates, t-shirts, etc. This is a fund raiser which we do every year and the proceeds go to the Art Department. Parents, please look for a packet coming home with your child’s art work sometime next week. In addition to providing wonderful holiday gifts, this project helps promote self esteem for the children as they are so excited when they see their art on something that they use/wear. Also, the art department needs magazines desperately... food, animal, sports, and fashion are the best but Ms. Rosemary will take anything! Thank you for supporting the art department!!

CALENDAR

Monday, October 24, 2:15	Upper Campus Assembly - New England Youth Theater presentation and introduction of Giff Hill School’s January production of “Godspell”
Monday, October 24, 3:15	Annual Fund Parent Ambassador Orientation – Upper Campus
Tuesday, October 25, 3:30	Cross Country Meet at UVI
Tuesday, October 25, 3:45	Flag Football vs. BCB
Wednesday, October 26, 4:00	JV Girls Volleyball game vs. Calvary Christian at BCB
Thursday, October 27, 4:00	JV Girls Volleyball game vs. Cancryn at Antilles
Friday, October 28, 6:30	Athletics Boosters Halloween Dance at the Upper Campus
Friday, October 28, 8:30	Student of the Month – Lower Campus Great Room
Friday, October 28	1 st quarter grades close
Monday, October 31	Halloween Festivities on Lower and Upper Campuses
8:30-9:00	Lower School Parade at the Upper Campus
1:30-3:00	Lower School Halloween Party – Volunteers still needed; see Ms. Angelita or Ms. Beth
2:15-3:00	Upper Campus Halloween Festivities
3:30	Trick or Treat Fun at Mongoose Junction
Tuesday, November 1	CULTURALYPSO – D. Hamilton Jackson Day Celebration at GHS; School dismissed at 12:00 pm

UPPER CAMPUS NEWS

Class elections for Student Council took place this week, and the newly appointed officers will be meeting shortly to draft their constitution and organize a meeting schedule. One of the first actions of the Student Council will be to organize an eco-council sub-committee devoted to furthering Giff Hill School’s sustainability mission. Congratulations to the following class representatives: Patrick Smith, Kanika Liburd, Westin Patrie, Maggie

Giff Hill School Newsletter

October 21st, 2011



Wessinger, Jah'Sheada Griffith, Viniqua David, Felix Olivieri, Makeda Dawson, Maia Ginther, Monique Edwards, Aysha Clendenin, Garrett Myers, Soleil Gessner, Tomas del Olmo. Congratulations to you all!!

New England Youth Theatre and Steven Stearns will be arriving next week to perform and introduce the winter school play, "Godspell". They will be meeting with interested students and holding auditions throughout the week of October 24-28. Students cast for the performance must commit to returning from winter break one week early (January 2) to participate in two weeks of daily rehearsals culminating in performances the weekend of January 13th through the 15th.

In Ms. Maria's grade six Spanish class, students are making a movie, tentatively titled, "Somos Así" which is all in Spanish. This is about their class, their school life, their hobbies and likes and dislikes. Students are responsible for writing the script, choosing the locations, and writing parodies of their favorite songs in Spanish. They are working really hard. We are sure to have a wonderful end project!

There is now a "newsfeed" in the middle school library. It will be updated with approximately six new stories each week. It features current controversial news stories for the students to read. Once a week, they will be writing a persuasive opinion article to prepare for debates on the topics. Please contact Rich Walsh at the Upper Campus if you are interested in more details.

Seniors are actively involved in the college application process. We were very pleased to host both Ohio Wesleyan and Vassar College who visited with the Juniors and Seniors this month. Over the last several weeks, Ms. Meghan has been coordinating disciplined specific SAT test preparation for the students and the high school faculty has been instructing them in test taking strategies. Ten out of eleven of our seniors took the SAT test at GHS on October 1st. The next SAT test will be again offered at GHS on November 5th.

We have developed a "Community Service Opportunity" bulletin board to publicize all the wonderful service opportunities available to our students. Community service is a graduation requirement for a GHS diploma (72 hours total required).

LOWER CAMPUS NEWS

John Ferrigno, father of Sam and Georgia, has generously donated two new basketball hoops for our sport court. The students are enjoying them during recess and in our after school basketball program on Tuesday afternoon. Thank you, John!

Congratulations to Dennis Bigriggs, Skylar Loeffler, Alexandra Glabach, Gabrielle Glabach, Tierney Murrill, Aidan Emanuelson, Nekwante Sprauve, Lyric Vacharet, Amelia Ray, Naheem Modeste, Adelaide Jones, Lunique Henley, Kayleigh Emanuelson, Motali Sofer-Greer, Damien Smith-Wallace, Lily Schutt, Allegra Muilenburg, Luca Costello, Jada Jarvis, Emily Murrill, Vela Culbert, Zohar Sofer-Greer for reaching the summer reading goals for the Governors Summer reading Challenge! They will be enjoying a trip on the Discovery glass bottom boat on Saturday November 5th.

Giff Hill School Newsletter

October 21st, 2011



Once again many thanks to Joe Palminteri for preparing and serving the students a pasta lunch. All the proceeds will go to the PTO Library Project Fund.

Ms. Val and Ms. Tansy each received an iPad 2 for their classrooms. They attended a two-day training on St. Thomas this week. We will be exploring touch screen technology and its educational value with our youngest students.

Pre-kindergarten enjoyed a fun day with the St. John Fire Department. Ms. Gina and Ms. Mia have compiled a great picture collage for the Pre-K parents.

The 2nd/3rd graders are off to the ACC to learn about caring for animals as well as preparing for their Giff Hill School Gives Back project.

The VI Soccer Association is sending a coach every Friday to teach the 4th/5th graders soccer skills during PE class with Ms. Liz.

The long awaited laptops for the 4th/5th graders will be distributed today. The first project will be with Ms. Debbie who will be utilizing them to assist the students in their Power Point presentations in science.

Remember to support the ACC "No Fleas, Please" market tomorrow at the Winston Wells Ball Field. Lots of great bargains, all supporting the Animal Care Center and our GHS high school Trip Fund:

WANTED: THINGS YOU DON'T USE! Giffts Around the World, the school trip program for grades 9-12, will be accepting gently used items to be recycled and sold at the ACC's "No Fleas, Please" yard sale extravaganza to be held at the Winston Wells Ball Field on Saturday, October 22nd from 10am-4pm. Items should be dropped off between 8am-9am. All proceeds go toward funding the 2012 trip to South America! Please contact Ms. Colette or Mr. Angel at the upper campus for more details.

Enjoy your weekend.

Warmest regards,
Ms. Judy