

Giff Hill School Newsletter

September 23, 2011



Dear Parents:

Thanks for coming out last night to BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT. Our first community-wide event was a huge success. The enthusiasm you showed for GHS and our teachers was inspiring and your Pot Luck culinary prowess unparalleled. On behalf of the teachers and administrators, thank you for your support. We all feel that this year's student body is the most dynamic and interesting one we have ever experienced. Many thanks to Ms. Beth, Mr. Joe and Ms. Rosemary for tending to the logistics of the evening.

The Development Office is planning the 2nd Annual community service day, "Giff Hill School Gives Back" for November 10, 2011. We are requesting all faculty and students who participated last year to turn in their **GHS Gives Back t-shirts** by Friday, September 30th. This will allow us to evaluate how many shirts we need to order this year for new students and faculty as well as returning students who may have outgrown their shirts. The first class to achieve 100% of students and faculty returning their shirts (no matter their condition) will be rewarded with a pizza party. Please help us in our efforts to save costs for this year's event.

After having extended the deadline to turn in **Medical forms**, there are still 5 lower campus / 9 upper campus students who have not yet submitted their form. If the School has not received your child's medical form by 8:15 Monday, we will call you and s/he will not be able to attend classes until the form has been turned in.

Below is the current list of Fall Athletic/Afterschool offerings on both the Lower and Upper Campuses.

3:15 – 4:15 LOWER CAMPUS

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
PS/PK	Enrichment <i>TBA</i>	Enrichment <i>TBA</i>	Enrichment <i>TBA</i>	Enrichment <i>TBA</i>	Tumbling <i>SJSA@GHS</i>
K/1st	Art <i>Ms. Rosemary</i>	Theatre <i>Ms. Elana</i>	Ribbon Dance <i>Ms. Liz</i>	Enrichment <i>Ms. Mia</i>	Enrichment <i>Ms. Mia</i>
2nd	Art <i>Ms. Rosemary</i>	Theatre <i>Ms. Elana</i>	Study Hall <i>Ms. Mia</i>	Ribbon Dance <i>Ms. Liz</i>	Study Hall <i>Ms. Mia</i>
3rd	Art <i>Ms. Rosemary</i>	Basketball <i>Mr. B</i>	Study Hall <i>Ms. Mia</i>	Ribbon Dance <i>Ms. Liz</i>	Study Hall <i>Ms. Mia</i>
4th/5th	X-Country- UC Study Hall <i>Ms. Mia</i>	Basketball <i>Mr. B</i> Study Hall <i>Ms. Mia</i>	X-Country- UC Study Hall <i>Ms. Mia</i>	Ribbon Dance <i>Ms. Liz</i> Study Hall <i>Ms. Mia</i>	X-Country- UC Study Hall <i>Ms. Mia</i>

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4:15 – 5:15 LOWER CAMPUS

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
PS/PK	Free Play <i>TBA</i>	Free Play <i>TBA</i>	Free Play <i>TBA</i>	Free Play <i>TBA</i>	Free Play <i>TBA</i>
K/1st	Stories/Games <i>Ms. Mia</i>	Stories/Games <i>Ms. Mia</i>	Stories/Games <i>Ms. Mia</i>	Stories/Games <i>Ms. Mia</i>	Tumbling <i>SJSA@GHS</i>
2nd	Study Hall <i>Ms. Mia</i>	Study Hall <i>Ms. Mia</i>	Study Hall <i>Ms. Mia</i>	Study Hall <i>Ms. Mia</i>	Tumbling <i>SJSA@GHS</i>
3rd	Study Hall <i>Ms. Mia</i>	Basketball <i>Mr. B</i>	Study Hall <i>Ms. Mia</i>	Theatre <i>Ms. Elana</i>	Tumbling <i>SJSA@GHS</i>
4th/5th	X-Country - UC Study Hall <i>Ms. Mia</i>	Basketball <i>Mr. B</i> Study Hall <i>Ms. Mia</i>	X-Country - UC Study Hall <i>Ms. Mia</i>	Theatre <i>Ms. Elana</i> Study Hall <i>Ms. Mia</i>	X-Country - UC Study Hall <i>Ms. Mia</i>

3:15 - 4:30 UPPER CAMPUS

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
4th-12th	X-Country- <i>FIELD</i>		X-Country- <i>FIELD</i>		X-Country- <i>FIELD</i>
6th-12th	Volleyball - <i>FIELD</i>		Volleyball - <i>FIELD</i>		Volleyball - <i>FIELD</i>
6th-12th		Cheerleading – <i>FIELD (until 5:30 pm)</i>		Cheerleading – <i>FIELD (until 5:30 pm)</i>	
6th-10th		Flag Football - <i>FIELD</i>		Flag Football - <i>FIELD</i>	
11th/12th	ARAWAKS – Tackle Football St. Thomas	ARAWAKS – Tackle Football St. Thomas	ARAWAKS – Tackle Football St. Thomas	ARAWAKS – Tackle Football St. Thomas	ARAWAKS – Tackle Football St. Thomas

This week in GHS Barracuda Sports

Student athletes continue to practice getting ready for their first competitions. ARAWAKS will play CAHS tonight at 7 pm at Lionel Roberts Stadium. JV Flag Football has its first **HOME GAME** this coming Monday vs. BCB at 3:45pm. Saturday, October 1 Flag Football will play CAHS at Cancryn field at 10:10am. Please come and support our boys Barracuda Flag Football team!!

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CALENDAR

Friday, September 23, 7 pm
Tuesday, September 27, 3:45
Saturday, October 1, 8:00 am
Saturday, October 1, 10:10 am

ARAWAKS v. CAHS at Lionel Roberts Stadium
Flag Football v. BCB - HOME
SAT Exam at GHS
Flag Football v. CAHS at Cancryn

UPPER CAMPUS NEWS

- In Advisory this coming Monday, students in grades 6 through 12 will be receiving a lesson on how to use the **Edline** Teacher/Parent communication tool. They will learn to navigate through their accounts and check their grades. We encourage you to check your child's Edline accounts with them weekly.
- **College Counseling:** Giff Hill School will be a test site for the October and November SATs. Seniors were encouraged to register and most will be taking the exam on October 1st. Seniors have been meeting as a large group and on an individual basis with Ms. Meghan for post-high school planning. Parents are always welcome to schedule a meeting to discuss the planning process and post-high school options.
- Congratulations are in order for Coral Breuning, Nicole Morrisette, Mariah Scheer, and Maggie Wessinger who were all inducted as members in the Giff Hill School Chapter of the **National Honor Society**. Ms. Mary put together a lovely induction ceremony Monday, September 19, 2011 which UC faculty, families and students attended.
- **Community Service:** All high school students have a community service graduation requirement of approximately 20 hours per year. Students should obtain their community service information packet from Ms. Meghan prior to beginning their hours this year. Parents/Guardians, if you work at a non-profit or government agency that has community service opportunities available for our students, please email details to Ms. Meghan at meghanduffy@giffthillschool.org and she will add your offering to the "Community Service Opportunities" bulletin board.
- Middle school students spent the day today doing a service learning project in partnership with the National Park Service as part of a **Coastal Clean Up** program. GHS takes responsibility for the stretch of coastline from Annaberg Ruins to Mary's Creek. After completing a trash inventory, students participated in a guided tour of the history and edible plants of Annaberg Ruins.
- Students in grades 6 through 9 have begun the first phase of collaboration with our EARTH sister school in **Uganda**. Students are writing letters to their pen pals, introducing themselves and sharing a little bit about what their lives are like on St. John. We look forward to fostering this relationship throughout the year.

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- A new initiative in the middle school, called "**Caught Being Kind**," is designed to raise awareness and recognition for the kind things the kids do for each other. Students will acknowledge and express appreciation for thoughtful gestures of others by filling out "kindness cards" which will then be collected and shared publicly. Teachers will also be able to recognize students for showing kindness towards each other. The hope is that kindness will become "contagious" as more and more students are recognized. We plan to display students' individual kindness cards in a "Kindness Quilt" in the front lobby. The Quilt will serve as an excellent visual of all the kindness the kids have shown each other throughout the year and to then launch a "pay it forward" project that is still in its design phase.

LOWER CAMPUS NEWS

- We would like to thank Lolly Prime for introducing our K-3rd graders to the art of building **Fairy Houses** which has its roots on several islands off the coast of Maine. The students created their houses from pieces of nature found on our island. It was wonderful to watch the students' imaginations at work.
- This year 4th/5th Grade teachers will be using the **Edline** software program to post online all classroom information including grades, homework assignments. You will all be given your own access code that allows you to review all of your child's posted grades and assignments. Once we have had a few technological glitches corrected, we should be good to go – probably by next Friday.
- We are very pleased to announce the beginning of an **After School Program** at the Lower Camus. (See 1st Semester schedule above.) Our goal is to provide opportunities for our students to pursue various activities to further enrich their lives, broaden their interests, and support their efforts in school. Over the course of the year, some offerings may remain the same and others will come and go. This is a work in progress, and we are always open to hearing what opportunities you would like to see for your children, as well as learning of any talents you might be interested in sharing with the children. The first term will start on October 3, 2011 and run through December 16, 2011. There will be no enrichment classes the weeks of Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks, but there will be after school childcare available.

While drop-ins are welcome, we **STRONGLY** encourage you to sign up in advance. We will not be able to offer any classes without **AT LEAST FIVE** children signed up by Thursday, September 29, 2011 deadline. For anyone who signs up and pays for the entire term by September 29, we will offer the 10 week class for \$90.

We have worked really hard to keep the costs low so as to make the opportunities affordable for your family. The cost of all After School Programs is \$10. That \$10 covers any amount of time your child is here from the end of school until 5:15. Most classes end at 4:15. Children in second grade and up who are here until 5:15 will be expected to work on homework with the tutoring assistance of Ms. Mia. Children not signed up for a class but here after school will join the most appropriate class being offered on that day or work with Ms. Mia on homework or appropriate games. Children younger than second grade will read stories or play enriching games. Study Hall is an option for all ages during the second

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hour of After School even if there is another activity being offered. In this case, it is important that parents make their expectations clear to Ms. Mia otherwise schedule them as she deems appropriate.

Please note that ALL students participating in a physical after school activity (Dance & Basketball for this term) will be REQUIRED to purchase school accident insurance at the cost of \$25. This coverage is good for the entire year and covers children for all school related activities: during school, after school, field trips, and transportation to and from school.

We look forward to a great first term. Have a great weekend. It looks like Ophelia will be staying clear of us.

Warmest regards,
Ms. Judy