

Giff Hill School Newsletter

September 9, 2011



Dear Parents,

Welcome to Giff Hill School! Once again we want to thank you for choosing Giff Hill School and entrusting us with your child's education.

The opening of GHS has been the smoothest I have ever witnessed in my many years as a school administrator. Thanks and Kudos go out to all the members of the Academic Administration – Ms. Beth, Ms. Angelita, Ms. Jill, Ms. Liz and Ms. Meghan for the tremendous amount of work and time they devoted to making sure that schedules, forms, supplies, books and uniforms were in place prior to the start of school. Similarly we are indebted to Ms. Rosemary and her crew of workers who did all the necessary maintenance and repairs, to Mr. Wilfred, Mr. Walters, Mr. Francisco and Mr. Antonio for their exterior/infrastructure work on both campuses, Mr. Andrew Barlas and his crew, WAPA and their crew, Mr. Bill Osborne and his solar panel crew, and to parent volunteers - Jon and Nancy Schutt, Beth and Arthur Jones, Molly Murrill, Shira Sofer, Maria Turner, Jane and Adam Thill, Helen Jones and her family, Shani Carbon, Keryn Bryan, Kerrin Patrie and Brion Morrisette. We couldn't have enjoyed such a wonderful opening of school without your help.

We are getting ready for another exciting year of Barracuda Sports!! For the FALL SEASON, Upper Campus students can participate on JV Flag Football, Girls Volleyball, Co-ed Cross Country Running, Cheerleading and Arawaks Varsity Football teams!

The Lower Campus students in grades 4 and 5 can also participate on the Cross Country Running team and we will be working on the start up for the after school elementary basketball program. More details will follow.

If you are interested in having your child participate on a team please contact Ms. Barbie at the Upper Campus barbiebarry@giffthillschool.org or call 340-244-9609. *LET'S GO 'CUDAS!!!!!!!!*

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Please sign up with Ms. Angelita if you want to receive text messages in addition to other means of communication you have previously indicated – i.e. U.S. mail, email, etc. We have found this to be an effective means of communication when the power goes out and with it internet and phone service. We follow the Department of Education and the Governor's advisories in case of weather related school closings. GHS will call into Radio 1 to post updates.

At present, there is no hot lunch available. **All students should bring a bagged lunch** to school. We are currently conducting a fund raising drive to build a kitchen on the Upper Campus from which we would cook and serve lunch for both campuses. We are soliciting restaurants and resorts for equipment and expertise and a contractor has agreed to donate his services at cost. The first priority, however, is to do the demolition on the

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lower patio to create the space, then the electrical, plumbing, painting of the surfaces, and seeking the appropriate approvals and inspections. If you can help in this effort, please call Ms. Beth Jones in the Development Office at 776-1730

Medical Forms – All students must have a completed Medical Form turned in by Thursday, September 15. Students may not return to school after the 15th without a completed Medical Form.

School Accident Insurance – Many of you have turned in sign up sheets requesting insurance but did not include payment of \$25. Please note that sign-up sheets and payment must be received by September 15. This is an optional program for most students. However, STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE IS MANDATORY for any student wishing to participate in the GHS athletic program.

CALENDAR

Friday, September 16th 7am-1:30pm Seniors attend College Fair on St. Thomas and tour UVI: meet at the 6:40 am at the barge.

Monday, September 19th 2:15pm National Honor Society Induction Ceremony – UC Atrium; All invited.

Thursday, September 22nd, 5-6pm Back to School Night; Open House to meet teachers on both campuses; Child care available LC; UC students invited to visit classes with parents.

Thursday, September 22nd, 6pm Family Pot Luck in Great Room LC; dishes may be dropped off starting at 4:30 pm in the Great room.

UPPER CAMPUS NEWS – Ms. Meghan, Ms. Liz and Ms. Jill

The Seniors are in full swing with post-high school planning! Rider University visited GHS on September 7 and Lafayette University is scheduled to visit on September 15. The Senior class will be traveling to St. Thomas on Friday, September 16 to attend the CCA College Fair to meet with representatives from several universities including: Lynn University, University of South Florida, University of Tampa, and Johnson and Wales. Following the college fair, we will be going on a formal tour of the UVI campus, led by the UVI Admissions Officer, to allow students to further understand and explore their opportunities. Additionally, all seniors will be taking part in a weekly College Workshop every Friday with school counselor, Ms. Meghan.

Students in the middle school are eagerly awaiting the arrival of their new netbooks. We hope to have these in students' hands by Sept 19th. A separate letter and student/parent contract will be sent home next week. Plans are also underway for the first middle school field trip, which will be a culminating activity linked with the

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summer reading assignment, Treasure Island. We are hoping to arrange a boat trip to Norman Island where students will

apply map-reading and writing skills, learn to solve basic distance equations, and identify native flora and fauna as they retrace the steps of their favorite characters from the novel.

Next week 6th-12th graders will also engage in an interdisciplinary activity commemorating the 10 year anniversary of 9/11. We encourage you to join them in reflecting on the impact this event had on our country and on each of us as individuals.

All Upper School Students have received their special 2G GHS Thumb drive and have begun using them in their classes. Additional Thumb drives are available at \$10/each.

Now that school is underway we'd like to take this opportunity to review a few school rules so everyone is on the same page. Please see below.

- Cell phones/personal electronic devices may not be used during class time unless the teacher has directed them to do so as part of an instructional activity. Students may, however, use them during their free time which includes break, lunch, and hall passings.
- Earphones/wireless headsets may not be worn during class time. That also includes unplugged earphones. Students may, however, use earphones during their free time which includes break, lunch, and hall passings.
- Each student is provided a locker for their personal belongings. If students choose to lock their lockers they must provide their own lock and give a spare key or combination to their homeroom teacher. Book bags, purses, etc. are not permitted in classrooms or common areas. All personal belongings should be left in lockers.
- Attendance is essential for student success. Please remember that arriving late to class means missing valuable instruction. The school policy is that 3 tardies to class equals 1 class absence. 9 absences from a class in one semester (or 18 throughout the year) will result in the loss of credit for that class. In homeroom, which is not a credit bearing course, 3 tardies will result in an afterschool detention.
- Violations of the school's uniform policy will result in an automatic detention unless the necessary clothing can be brought to school by a parent or guardian.

Doors to the Upper Campus open at 7:45am. Any child(ren) arriving to the Upper Campus prior to 7:45am will need to wait outside or on the downstairs patio until school opens.

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LOWER CAMPUS NEWS – Ms. Beth

We are delighted to announce the extracurricular programs that will run on the Lower Campus during the course of this year in addition:

ELC Programs	K/1 Programs	2/3 Programs	4th Programs	5th Programs
Joyful Child Yoga	Earth Program with 4th	Primary	Broadway Come to St.	MHBD
Early Learning	grade	Spelling Bee	John	Recorder
Music	Orff Music	Orff Music	Recorder	Ethnic
Books Alive	Ethnic Drumming	Ethnic Drumming	Ethnic Drumming	Drumming

Ms. Laura Dunlap will be coordinating the after school program this year with many exciting activities. We should be ready to begin by the first week in October in the meantime we will have child care available daily from 3:15-5:15 pm Monday through Friday.

Ms. Liz Putnam's Ribbon Dancing classes will begin on Wednesday, September 14th for 1st grade from 3:15-4:15 in the Great Room. A second class will be held starting on Thursday, September 15th for 2nd through 6th graders from 3:15-4:15pm.

Please make sure your child has filled out the reading log for the Governor's Challenge with a parent's signature by September 15th. We have forms in the office if you need an extra one.

We are still working on our new drop off and pick up and we appreciate any feed back from you. Our goal is to make the process safe for all.

Doors to the Lower Campus open at 8:00 am. Any child(ren) arriving to the Lower Campus prior to 8:00 am will wait at the picnic tables.

Have a great weekend and stay safe and dry.

Warmest regards,

Ms. Judy