

November 2020

Dear Grace School Parents and Guardians,

Can you believe 2020 is almost over?! While that might seem like a wonderful thing considering what 2020 has brought all of us, we are not out of the woods yet and in fact, we might be in store for a difficult winter season. But right now we can celebrate, the holidays are upon us. Christmas is just over a month away, and with Thanksgiving this week there isn't a better time to reflect on the many blessings in our lives and the many gifts God has given us, especially the greatest gift of all – His Son, Jesus.

Our teachers and staff here at Grace School are certainly a gift to be thankful for and a sign of God's love working among us. Their dedication to our children goes beyond educating them in Science, Music, History, Reading, Math, Writing and Technology. They nurture our children's faith and work to build a caring and safe school community. This is true in any year, but let's take a moment (or twenty) to really think about all they have done for our students this year. We are so very fortunate to be in school in this crazy and uncertain time. Whether your student is learning in-person or remotely, you understand and appreciate how much our teachers and staff are doing. Whether a homeroom or specials teacher, or the other faculty around the building; each and every one of them goes above and beyond to help our children become the people God created them to be academically, socially and emotionally. Teaching is too often a thankless job, which is why we make sure to do everything we can to show our thanks here at Grace.

It is our tradition to show our appreciation to faculty and staff by giving them a monetary gift collected from the families of our students at Christmas. Our committed staff does not receive a separate Christmas bonus, so these gifts are a wonderful way to show our gratitude for everything they do. But please note that these are *gifts*, whatever you can give is very much appreciated, there is no suggested amount, every family is different and every class is different each and every year. The staff does not expect anything from the families but they do very much value your generosity as they are able to use those gifts in many ways over the holidays and beyond. Please take a look at the attached list and consider contributing in some way. Whatever you choose to give will go directly to that teacher or staff member in a card to be delivered before Christmas. As this is a gift, please do not feel obligated to contribute, this is one way to show your appreciation for our tireless teachers, and we understand that some of you might choose to find another way to honor them this holiday season.

If you plan to contribute, please note that **all gifts must be cash**, and need to be received no later than **Friday, December 11**. Gifts may be left at the school office with Mrs. Maggio. The room parents will distribute the gifts to the homeroom teachers and aides at their class parties and the other teachers and staff will receive their gift before they leave for the Christmas break.

Questions? Contact Becky Morgan rebecca.morgan04@gmail.com

Sincerely,

GPO and Room Parents of Grace

Grace Teacher and Staff Christmas Cash Gifts

Use this form if you would like to contribute to a cash gift for teachers and staff. **PLEASE NOTE: WE CANNOT ACCEPT CHECKS.**
Please return this form with cash in an envelope marked "staff gift" to Mrs. Maggio by **Friday, December 11**. Room Parents will deliver gifts during class parties and all non-homeroom teachers and aides will receive before the Christmas break.

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|---|--------------------|----------|
| PK Teacher | Tina Baird | \$ _____ |
| PK Aide | Elizabeth Darrow | \$ _____ |
| JK Teacher/PM Kdg. Teacher | Kim Hoffman | \$ _____ |
| JK Aide/PM Kdg. Teacher | Julie Brown | \$ _____ |
| SK Teacher | Jackie Johnson | \$ _____ |
| SK Aide | Jennifer Brayton | \$ _____ |
| 1 st Grade Teacher | Jessica Pederson | \$ _____ |
| 2 nd Grade Teacher | Stacy Sorg | \$ _____ |
| 3 rd Grade Teacher | Ahliyah Watson | \$ _____ |
| 4 th Grade Teacher | Ruthi Brucato | \$ _____ |
| 5 th Grade Teacher | Ruth Massmann | \$ _____ |
| 6 th Grade Teacher | Kristi Underhill | \$ _____ |
| 7 th Grade Teacher/Tech Teacher Grades 5-8 | Brian Schultz | \$ _____ |
| 8 th Grade Teacher | Lisa Wolfanger | \$ _____ |
| Math Teacher Grades 7-8 | Breah Ponce | \$ _____ |
| P.E. Teacher Grades SK-8 | Paul Canada | \$ _____ |
| German Teacher Grades 1-8 | Erika Lyle | \$ _____ |
| Art Teacher Grades 1-8 | Melissa Hammer | \$ _____ |
| Resource Teacher/Athletic Director | Kristine Washburn | \$ _____ |
| Resource Teacher | Kristin McShane | \$ _____ |
| Library Media Learning Center | Carol Van Santen | \$ _____ |
| Music Teacher Grades PK-8/Choir Director Grades 1-8 | Janel Dennen | \$ _____ |
| Choir Director Grades 5-8..... | Michael Costello | \$ _____ |
| School Secretary | Eileen Maggio | \$ _____ |
| School Principal | Bill Koehne | \$ _____ |
| Facility Manager | Rich Brooks | \$ _____ |
| Facilities | Jay De Vries | \$ _____ |
| Technology Coordinator | Kennedy Johnson | \$ _____ |
| Marketing/Enrollment Director | Jordan Easton | \$ _____ |
| Classroom Aide..... | Katarina Modrich | \$ _____ |
| Reception Desk | Esther Armstrong | \$ _____ |
| Reception Desk | Barb Van Heukelem | \$ _____ |
| Band Director | Cheldon White | \$ _____ |
| Orchestra Director | Kristen Hedlund | \$ _____ |
| School Social Worker | Lisa Guagenti | \$ _____ |
| Speech Therapist | Sabrina Mandelbaum | \$ _____ |
| Extended Care Staff | | \$ _____ |
| General Gift for Grace Staff | | \$ _____ |
| TOTAL | | \$ _____ |