



THE VIKING VOICE

GET THE GOOD NEWS FROM GRACE LUTHERAN!



Grace participated in the Bonnie Brae 9.11 LemonAID event this year.

DID YOU KNOW?

Beginning this year sixth through eighth grade students can gain community service hours as part of their Religion curriculum. This addition allows our students to put into action the lessons they learn in school about grace, kindness, and helping others. Students obtain service hours by helping outside organizations or by supporting our school community in various ways, including singing in the choir or playing bells on Sunday mornings, helping with concessions at sporting events and more. Service hours are tracked by trimester and requirements vary by grade. Check out the bulletin board on the first-floor landing by 7th and 8th grade classes for more information. If you know of any individuals or an organization our students may be able to help, please contact the Jr. High teachers.



Sophia Augustine getting the word out about walk-a-thon and earning service hours.



5th and 6th grades on a field trip at the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio

SCOOP FROM THE SCHOOL

The first month of school was a busy one at Grace Lutheran.

9/11 LemonAID Stand: On September 11, Grace provided volunteers at the annual Bonnie Brae LemonAID stand, which benefited Hepzibah and Beat the Streets Chicago Wrestling this year. Participants supported the donation and baked goods tent and enjoyed meeting many new people.

Glimpse of Grace Blog: New this year is a weekly blog (located on the website) called a Glimpse of Grace and written by Jennifer Beasley, our new Director of Enrollment and Marketing. The blog will keep families up-to-date on everything that goes on during the week at Grace. Jennifer welcomes contributions of ideas and pictures. If you have something to submit, please send it to Jenn Beasley at jbeasley@graceriverforest.org.

Pastor Gatherings: Our school families belong to many different churches around the area. Even if you aren't a member at Grace, our pastors are part of your child's faith journey. Grace pastors recently contacted colleagues at other congregations by mailing invitations for *Pastor Gatherings* to those

home churches. If your church leadership did not receive an invitation, please contact Jenn Beasley with the church name, pastor(s) name(s), and contact information. We want to recognize and thank them for the spiritual influence they have in our students' lives by inviting them to our school for a service and breakfast. Please feel free to mention it to them at church this week and encourage them to attend.

First Look Fridays: First Look Fridays will take place on the third Friday of every month. The first one of the year is coming up on Friday, October 18th. Please reach out to Jenn Beasley if you can help that morning from 8:30-10 am or if you have ideas on ways you can help showcase our wonderful school to potential families.

Chipotle Fundraiser: Thanks to all of you that attended the Chipotle fundraiser last night. The line was out the door! We can't wait to hear how much money we raised which will go towards our walk-a-thon goal. Thank you again for helping Grace while hopefully hitting the "easy button" for dinner last night.



CLASSROOM CHATTER

Check out what has been happening in some of our classrooms recently:

JK: In Science last week, Ms. Hoffman’s JK class created apple volcanoes. They made predictions (and a fun mess) on what would happen when you mix vinegar with baking soda (see picture).

SK: Ms. Johnson’s Senior Kindergarten superstars made applesauce last week to study the process of osmosis in Science (see picture). The students will decorate pumpkins and create their own pumpkin patch outside of their classroom. Take a trip downstairs and check it out at the end of the month.

2nd: Mrs. Sorg’s spectacular second graders were “seeing spots” or dots! The students had a lot of fun on Dot Day during which they learned about creativity, collaboration and “making your mark” Through share Peter H. Reynold's book *The Dot*. Students responded to the prompt "One dot can be a..." which are displayed on the class bulletin board. Second graders played the 30 Circles Challenge, a timed activity in which filled in circles on a page with as many different patterns as possible. A highlight of this dot-venture was when the students worked together to create “Buddy Dots” (see picture).

5th: Mrs. Massmann’s fifth graders experienced a wonderful walking field trip to the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio and the Unity Temple earlier in the school year along with Grace’s sixth graders. Art lecturer Rhea Sprecher provided a class lesson prior to the field trip to prepare them for what they would see. Once in the buildings seeing first-hand the ornate and impeccable work by Wright that is known around the world, they students began to appreciate living and attending school in such an architecturally rich community. Fifth grade will lead chapel with their sixth grade friends on Tuesday, October 2, and all families are welcome. There will be readings and lots of fun music (see picture) thanks to help from Mrs. Dennen.

6th: Along with the fulfilling field trip and chapel preparations, Mrs. Clauss’ sixth grade class has been busy in Science making models of cells out of various household items. In Social Studies students made physical maps of a chosen continents which are posted up in the 3rd-6th commons area. Please contact Carrie Douma (carriedouma@gmail.com) for more information about a sixth grade gathering for Halloween.

Art: Teaching art takes a lot of work and a lot of materials. Mrs. Hammer is looking for 32-ounce plastic jars and clean plastic trays that frozen meals come in to use in her classroom.

Halloween Parties are coming up quickly. Please check with your Room Parent to confirm times and details. Please check with your teacher and Room Parent for allergies in your classroom before choosing what to bring if you sign up to contribute food items. The Halloween Costume Guidelines are as follows:

- **Early Childhood Classes (PK, JK, SK):** Can wear their costumes to school (no masks or weapons) and will have a morning Halloween parade throughout the school.
- **Grades 1 and 2:** Can bring, but not wear, costumes (no masks or weapons) to school. They will also participate in a small parade in the afternoon during their party time. Please check with your Room Parents, but the teachers will likely need one or two volunteers to help get kids ready.
- **Grades 3 and up:** No costumes and please confirm with Room Parents about your logistics for parties.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

5th & 6th Grade Led Chapel Service
Oct 2, 8:30-9 am

Walk-a-Thon (Early Dismissal)
Oct 4, 8:15 – 11:30 am

Cub Scouts Meeting
Oct 4, 7-8 pm

Oktoberfest
Oct 6, 4-7 pm

Support the Sports Pizza Fundraiser
Oct 9

Parent/Teacher Conferences (Early Dismissal)
Oct 10

Book Fair
Oct 10, 11:30-8 pm
Contact: Lexi Wurpts

No School
Oct 11-14

First Look Friday
Oct 18, 8:30-10 am
Contact: Jenn Beasley

Hot Lunch
Oct 18

GPO Mother/Daughter Event
Oct 18, 6:30-8:30 pm
Contact: Joanna Schubkegel

Family Fun Friday
Oct 25, 6-8 pm
Contact: Julie Modrich

5th-8th Grades Sing in Church
Oct 27, 8:30 am

Room Parent/GPO Meeting
Nov 1, 8:20-9 am

Hot Lunch
Nov 1

3rd & 4th Grades Sing at the Temple
Nov 1, 6-8 pm
Temple Har Zion, River Forest

Ronald McDonald House Charities (rmhc.org). We had a chapel buddy competition to bring in much-needed items for the families staying in the Ronald McDonald houses. Through your generosity we surpassed our 2,000 point goal (just wait to see what Mr. Koehne does for the students on Friday). The grade team winners (the 3rd/8th grade group) will have a special breakfast party with each other. Although we met our item donation goal (picture on page 4), we are still shy of our **\$25,000** monetary goal. If you haven’t done so, you can still sign up for Pledgestar or simply ask family and friends to support your child’s school. Every little bit helps!



SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

Walk with Grace is this Friday!! The students are excited for this very fun day, but we aren’t quite ready yet! As you know, we are raising money for our educational programs as well as the amazing

IN THE KNOW WITH GPO



The school year is off to a great start already. The GPO held its first event of the year by hosting an Adult Trivia night. It was a night of fun, food, fellowship and *some* facts. Nearly 50 Grace parents attended, all of whom had a great time showing off their trivia skills and enjoying the company of the other parents in a very relaxed setting. We hope to see many more parents at our future adult events!

Our first parent/child event is coming up in just a few weeks. The **Mother/Daughter Beach Party** will be Friday, October 18, from 6:30-8:30 pm in the Grace gym. More details will be coming in the Tuesday folders, but the event will include activities for all ages: food, games, crafts, a relay race and even volleyball. We are looking for some dads (or moms of sons) to volunteer so the moms can enjoy a night with their daughters. Please see sign-up link below as there are various opportunities to pitch in and help our moms have some fun! For more information, please contact Joanna Schubkegel at jschub@me.com.



There are many ways you can help! Please see the “Pitch In” section below to find the many ways in which you can get involved. You can also find all of those “**VIKING VOLUNTEERS**” opportunities at anytime right on Grace’s website under *Parent Resources*.



Trivia Night Winners – Group “8 is Enough”

ROOM PARENT ROUND-UP

Parent-Teacher Conferences are coming up on Thursday, October 10. They will all take place in Fellowship Hall to ease transitions for families with multiple children. A *SignUp Genius* link was sent out yesterday with the timeslots available between 1 and 8 pm. These conferences are an important opportunity for parents and teachers to connect and discuss each child’s progress and their transition into their new classrooms this fall.

This is a very long day for our teachers. They teach our students for the morning and then hold conferences all afternoon and evening. As a way of saying thanks and to take one more thing off their plates, the parents provide a meal for them that they can have between their meetings. If you can help, please see the “Pitch In” section below.

During the fall conferences Grace will also hold a **Scholastic Book Fair**. This is a great opportunity to purchase a book for your child as a reward for their hard work so far or put away a few items for Christmas gifts. You can also purchase a book for your child’s classroom and donate to our library. Please stop by either before or after your conference. And, as always, it takes a lot of work to hold an event like this. Please see the sign-up link below to see how you can help. For any other questions, please contact Lexi Wurpts at lexi.wurpts@gmail.com.

PITCH IN!



As the saying goes, “many hands make light work.” This is especially true for our school. Grace has so many wonderful activities and opportunities for our students and families, but it truly takes a village to make it happen. There are ways both big and small to help...

TEACHER DINNER DURING CONFERENCES:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080b4ca8ac22a5fc1-teacher>

BOOK FAIR: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080b4ca8ac22a5fc1-grace5>

MOTHER/DAUGHTER EVENT:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080b4ca8ac22a5fc1-motherdaughter>

CONCESSIONS:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B094FAAAE2AA6F58-concession>

SMILES FROM THE SCHOOL

