



THE VIKING VOICE

GET THE GOOD NEWS FROM GRACE LUTHERAN!



DID YOU KNOW?

GRACE SCHOOL HAS A GREEN TEAM

As you are aware, right before the Christmas break Grace installed solar panels, but that's not the only way we look to help our planet. Grace's Green Team is comprised of some of our 5th and 6th grade students. The green team was set up a few years ago to help the team members educate and inform their classmates and younger students what can be recycled and composted. They are helping reduce Grace's waste. In the near future, the Green Team will be looking for ways they can be stewards and care for God's earth in the spring. If you have any questions or want more information about the Green Team you can contact Kristine Washburn at kwashburn@graceriverforest.org.



Every child in the school signed this picture. Some names are smushed together, but that is our close-knit Grace family!

SCOOP FROM THE SCHOOL

AUF WIEDERSEHEN TO THE WEGNERS

This Sunday, January 19th marks a sad day in our Grace community. This is the day we bid farewell to Pastor Lauren, Pastor Dave, Owen and Caroline Wegner. The Wegners joined Grace back in 2017 with Dave and Lauren as Associate Pastors and Owen and eventually Caroline as students. They have been such a ray of sunshine to all of us from Sunday worship, to Sunday School, Confirmation classes, Teen Talk, Moms of Littles, Wednesday Chapel, Wednesday "Little Kid" Chapel, Religion classes, leading different committees, visiting sick members, dominating in silly games with our students (Lauren in the ping pong ball in the bucket game, Dave in volleyball- big shoes to fill), to simply being the smiling faces (Owen and Caroline) or the hugs we needed on a daily basis. Grace Lutheran School and Church will miss you, but are very excited to see what God has planned for your next chapter in Austin, Texas.

A NOTE FROM THE FAMILY

Dear Grace School families,
We are going to miss you immensely! This school is a treasure, and it's been a wonderful experience for our family to be pastors, parents, and students in this community. We will always hold dear these days of learning, singing, praying, and growing in this unique and Spirit-filled place. The foundation that Grace School has laid in the lives of Owen and Caroline surely strengthens their future, and we give such thanks to God for that! Thank you for embracing our family into yours. We pray that God only continues to enrich and enliven this community of faith and learning.

Much love in Christ,
Pastor Lauren, Pastor Dave, Owen, and Caroline Wegner

HAPPEN' AROUND THE HALLS

We hope everyone had a wonderful and relaxing Christmas break, here are a few snippets of what our school has been up to both in and out of the classrooms from our magnificent Christmas Eve services, class Christmas parties, basketball games and more! A very special welcome back to Mrs. Brooks who will be teaching 1st grade until the end of the year and congrats to both the girls and boys 7th-8th grade basketball teams for taking second place at the Walther tournament last weekend!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

AGE Volunteer Meeting

Jan 16, 6:30 pm

Contacts: Emily Hartung & Amanda Steelman

First Look Friday

Jan 17, 8:30-10 am

Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby

Jan 18

No School – MLK Day

Jan 20

Chapel Led by 7th Grade

Jan 22, 8:30 am

Faculty Lunch Coverage

Jan 22

GPO Dad's Night

Jan 23, 6:30-8:30 pm

Hot Lunch/Spirit Wear Day

Jan 24

5th-8th Grade PADS Service Project

Jan 24, 7-8:30 pm

Early Childhood Open Gym

Jan 25, 9-11 am

Contact: Joanna Schubkegel

Open House

Jan 26, 1-2:30 pm

3rd Grade Girl Scouts Meeting

Jan 27, 3-4:15 pm

Chili Cook-Off

Jan 31, 6-8:30 pm

AGE Wine Pull

Feb 1, 7-10 pm

Contact: Joanna Schubkegel

5th-8th Grade Sings at Chicago Wolves

Feb 1

Cub Scouts Pancake Breakfast

Feb 2, 9:30-11 am

Parent/Teacher Conferences (EARLY DISMISSAL)

Feb 6

No School

Feb 7

GPO/Room Parent Meeting

Feb 14, 8:20 am

Hot Lunch/Spirit Wear Day

Feb 14

IN THE KNOW WITH GPO



Dad's Night Out

GLS Dads, you are invited for your own night out at Grace to eat, hang out, and have fun! Sliders, snacks and sodas will be provided. BYOB. The main event will be a Bags Tournament. Not into bags? There will be cards (and poker chips) and several board games including Settlers of Catan. You can also just come eat and hang out! **The cost is a suggested donation of \$10 or a 6-pack of your favorite craft beer.** This will be used to auction during the dinner portion of Graceful Evening this year. Please sign up here to attend: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/dadsnight>
Any questions? Contact Amanda Steelman at amanda.steelman@gmail.com.



THURSDAY, JANUARY 23RD
6:30 - 9:00PM
GRACE FELLOWSHIP HALL

Early Childhood Family Event

Let's let those "littles" run out their "sillies". PK, JK and SK families are invited to gather (siblings too!) for an open gym play time event at Grace Lutheran. High school helpers will be there to facilitate fun for the children, hopefully allow parents some time to gather and chat. Coffee and snacks will be served. Contact Joanna Schubkegel at jschub@mac.com.

Hot Lunch 2.0 (or 2.0.2.0)

Our Hot Lunch Program has been revamped! Starting Friday, January 24th we will have a new approach to hot lunch at Grace, led primarily by parents. We will still offer two hot lunches each month: submarine sandwiches offered by Firehouse Subs and pizza through Costco. We cannot accept late orders and the form is due on Friday, January 17. Unfortunately, at this time, we will not be able to accommodate gluten free restrictions. Any Questions? Contact Joanna Schubkegel at jschub@mac.com.

Winter After School Enrichment

The Winter After School Enrichment class information and registration form can be found on the GPO page of the school's website. We have some great new offerings and some old favorites. Classes start the week of January 27th, with classes ranging from 4 to 8 weeks. Registration will be open until this Friday, January 17th.

A Taste for Grace Wine Tasting Event Benefitting A Graceful Evening

You're invited to join us at **A TASTE FOR GRACE** wine donation and tasting event! Guests are asked to bring two bottles of wine: One for tasting (valued at \$15 or less) and one to donate to the Graceful Evening wine pull (valued at \$20 or more). Your donation to Graceful Evening supports the annual budget of Grace Lutheran School. Questions? gracefulevening@graceriverforest.org. Thank you to Josh and Joanna Schubkegel for hosting the event! To sign up, please follow this link: <http://evite.me/fZtum4fxN6>

A TASTE FOR GRACE
Saturday, February 1st 7-10 pm.
1401 Jackson Ave. River Forest

ROOM PARENT ROUND-UP

Open House

There will be an Open House for prospective families on **Sunday, January 26, 1:00-2:30pm**. This is a great opportunity for families interested in Grace Lutheran School to get information regarding our school, take a tour of the building, and speak with our teachers. Please make a point to invite any friends interested in a high-quality Christian education to attend this event.

Winter MAP Testing

The second "Winter" session of MAP testing will begin on January 21st and will conclude before the end of the month. Please see notes from your homeroom teacher about the exact dates and subjects for your class(es).

Parent/Teacher Conferences

are coming up on Thursday, February 6th. All homeroom and specials teachers will be available in ten minute increments. A *SignUp Genius* link will be sent out yesterday with the various timeslots that you can sign up for. The conferences will be held from 1-8pm in order to accommodate most schedules. These conferences are an important way for parents and teachers to connect and discuss their child's progress.

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 of 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.

Valentine's Day Parties

All Valentine's Day parties will be held on Friday, February 14th for those classes that will be celebrating. Your Room Parents have the exact time and details, please reach out to them with any questions you may have. And please check out your Shutterfly (or similar) site to see if you are signed up to bring anything.

PITCH IN!



TEACHER DINNER DURING CONFERENCES:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080b4ca8ac22a5fc1-teacher1>

BASKETBALL CONCESSIONS:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b094faaae2aa6f58-basketball>

HOT LUNCH:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080b4ca8ac22a5fc1-grace7>

FIRST LOOK FRIDAYS: if you are a parent interested in helping, please contact Annalise Balock at abalock@graceriverforest.org



We have mentioned Graceful Evening in nearly every newsletter. We have talked about pre-events and meetings you can attend as well big and small ways in which you can get involved. But what exactly is **A Graceful Evening** and why do I want to go? Here is the who/what/when/where/why/how lowdown on all things "AGE":

WHAT is AGE?: A Graceful Evening is Grace Lutheran School's largest fundraiser of the year. But aside from raising funds for our sensational school, it is simply a really fun evening with fellow parents, friends and church members. The night includes: open bar, a sit-down dinner, silent auction, dessert dash, wine and whiskey pulls, raffles, music and good times with friends and family!

WHEN is AGE?: Saturday, March 14, 2020 5:30-10 pm. The evening will begin with cocktails while you begin to peruse the auction items and dinner will begin at 7:00pm. During dinner we will wrap up the auctions and end with our dessert dash!

WHERE is AGE?: Nineteenth Century Club 178 Forest Avenue Oak Park. You may park in the Forest Avenue parking garage or there will be complimentary valet parking available.

HOW much does it cost to attend AGE?: Tickets are \$100 each, \$200 per couple, or you can purchase a table of 10 for \$950.

WHO attends AGE?: One of the best things about Graceful Evening is that there are so many different groups of people that attend! This is an adults-only event, so we encourage you to talk to the parents in your classes as well as your other friends whose children attend Grace, do not attend Grace and especially if they are considering attending Grace. Don't hesitate to invite your parents and their friends as well. We are all invested in this school and it is the best way to show off all of the wonderful things happening in our halls. Side note- our annual Grandparents' Day is the day before on Friday, March 13th, so if you have family members in town or ones coming in to town, please invite them to attend, or if you have little ones at home you can use it as free childcare so that you can attend! It is a wonderful evening of faith, fellowship, food and fun!

I'm sold! HOW do I buy tickets?: Tickets are already on sale at graceful2020.givesmart.com. Tickets must be purchased before February 28, 2020. No tickets will be sold after that date. If you are buying individual tickets and want to sit with certain people, please indicate it online or contact Becky Morgan rebecca.morgan04@gmail.com. You will have menu options and to list any dietary restrictions at the time of purchase.

WHAT do I wear?: The simple answer is anything you would be comfortable wearing to a wedding. There is a range from business casual to cocktail attire. Please do not feel like you cannot attend because you don't have an Oscars ballgown and tuxedo hanging in your closet.

WHAT kind of items will be available for auction?: Auction items vary every year, but you can always count on a variety of experiences, one of a kind art pieces, unique gift baskets, and more! In addition to our auction items, you will have the opportunity to purchase items for your classrooms which support this year's Fund-A-Need: Peaceful Bodies, Productive Minds. Examples include new desks and alternative seating options.

CAN I bid on items if I can't attend the event?: YES! Even if you are not buying tickets, you can click on the link above and get registered with our online auction platform. From there you can check in on the process and will also get alerts when bidding is open, you have been outbid and when it has closed and if you were a winner. We would love for everyone to attend, but we understand that it is sometimes not possible. But you can still have fun bidding along with and against your Grace compadres.

WHO do I contact if I or know someone who would like to be a sponsor or has an item or experience to donate to AGE?: Please email gracefulevening@gracriverforest.org with any item or sponsorship. Everything is welcomed and very much appreciated. Emily Hartung and Amanda Steelman are the co-chairs this year and will answer any questions you have!

