Greenville Christian School

THE CONVOCATION

The Unexpected Collective Noun for a Group of Eagles

Volume 1 Issue 6 | GC Journalism Staff | January 2025

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THERE'S SNOW PLACE LIKE GC!

By Jillian Nelson

On January 9th and 10th, GC cancelled school because of inclement weather, and students enjoyed snow days. Usually Northeast Texas does not expect snow, so this was a treat for many students.

Students and their families had a great time with winter activities like riding sleds being pulled by side-by-sides, or golf carts, or their siblings. Others enjoyed drinking hot cocoa and watching the snowfall from the warmth of their homes. Pre-K3 student Anna Beasley said, "When it snows, I lay on the ground and make snow angels with my brother Luke and sister Ella." First Grader, Raylund Elvington says, "I like rolling down hills in the snow. It keeps me nice and icy cold." Many students are hoping for snow again in February!

More photos from the snow days can be found on page 2-4. Thanks to all who shared their fun photos.



PreK4 student Asher McClain tried to catch snowflakes on his tongue.



Raylund Elvington has on his winter snow gear!



Ariella and Adrian Mojica made snow angels.



Kindergartener Millie Sprouse enjoyed sledding.



Judah Phillips (PreK4) made a giant snowball.

COMING SOON

2/1 MS basketball @ BrookHill tournament

2/2 Groundhog Day

2/3 Varsity Girls basketball @ CHAAMPS

2/7 JV, Varsity Girls, Varsity Boys basketball @ CHCS Longview

2/14 Valentines Day (BUY YOUR VALOGRAMS)

2/17 Presidents Day (NO SCHOOL)

2/22 State HS Choir Solo and Ensemble Competition

2/24 Meet GCS

2/28 An Evening of Jazz

3/3 - 3/7 BMW Week

3/10 - 3/14 Spring Break

3/17 TAPPS Art and Academic Meet

DO YOU WANT TO BUILD A SNOWMAN?



Luke Renshaw (5th)



Ethan Pletcher (9th), Jake Pletcher (alumnus), Shane Pletcher (5th)



Abigail Williams (3rd) and
Levi Williams (9th)



Aurora Trevino (PreK3)



Sarah Wacasey (3rd)



McKenna Lowe (6th)



Anthony Hudgeons (6th), Aiden Hudgeons (8th),
and Addison Hudgeons (4th)



Austin May (6th)



Grant Ellis (4th)



Will Mahan (6th) and Elizabeth Mahan (3rd)



Jase White (5th), Tessa White (2nd), and Ally White (8th)



Grayson Ross (5th)



Lincoln Killgore (2nd) and Eli Killgore (4th)



Evelyn Phillips (1st)



Case Esquivel (1st)



Avery Gumpert (PreK4)



Braeden Smith (8th)

LET IT SNOW! LET IT SNOW! LET IT SNOW!



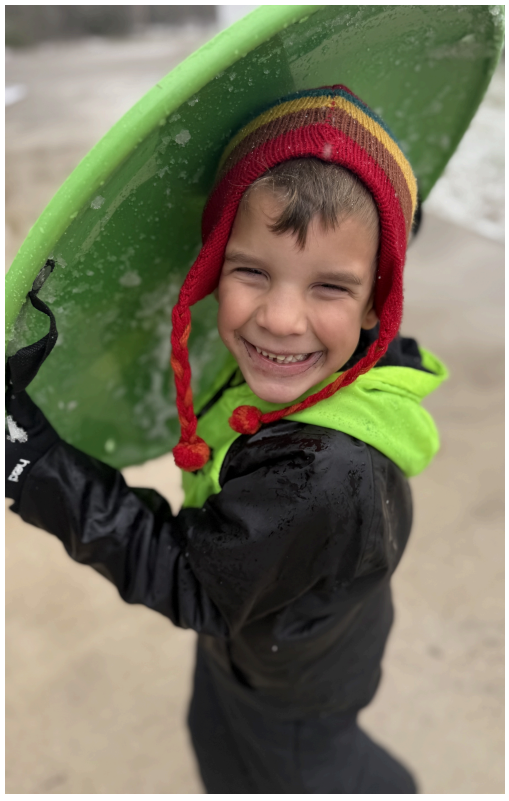
PreK4 student Hudson Sienty



First Grader Caroline Stephenson



Azel Gudgel (3rd) and Samuel Fitgerald-Gudgel (2nd)



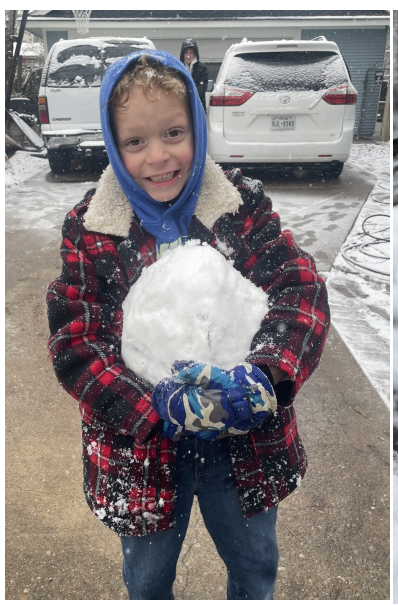
Carter Killgore (K)



Sarah Wacasey (3rd)



Brynley Dunn (K)



Micah Wacasey (1st)



Eli Killgore (4th)



Dee Dee Renshaw (2nd)



Ellie Faseler (5th)

GC DADS & DAUGHTERS DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY

By Jillian Nelson

On December 21, GC Dad Nation hosted their annual Daddy Daughter Dance at Webb Hill Country Club. The evening was filled with fun activities for the girls and their dads. The activities included dancing, crafts, food, and makeup. It has been estimated that about fifty fathers and daughters attended the event.

According to GC parent Jeff Lowe, "The Daddy-Daughter Dance is always a highlight of our year." Mr. Paul Faseler agrees, saying "This was such a great opportunity to spend quality time with my daughter, and try make her feel as special as she is. She got all of my attention for an evening and enjoyed every second of it (as did I) . . . and she still talks about that punch!"

Secondary students Grace Long and Khloe Montenegro planned make up sessions for the younger girls and led the group in line dancing. The students also made magnet crafts as mementos of the evening. Kindergartener Ella Beasley liked the craft. She said, “The magnet making was my really favorite part.”

Even though there were many fun activities, most of the girls enjoyed dancing the most of all. Second grader Canyon Cole said, “Everything was fun, but dancing with my dad was the most fun because I got to spend time with just him.” Second grader Cora Robbins reports, “ I loved it so so so much! Dancing with my friends was a fun way to spend the night." "I put on fancy makeup and we danced sooo much!" said preschooler Kate Killgore. This was for sure a night to remember.



GC fifth grader Abigail Blaske and her father.



Lavender Dew, grade 1, takes a spin around the dance floor with her dad.



GC student Emmy Lowe, grade 5, dances with her father.



Pre-Kindergartener Kate Killgore enjoys the evening with her dad.



Fifth grader Ellie Faseler dances with her father.

WILD WEEK

By Sadie Whitt

On January 21-24, Greenville Christian celebrated its first annual Wild Week to support the GC basketball teams. Wild Week certainly lived up to its name by including many spirit activities.

Students displayed their school spirit by dressing up for several theme days. There was no school on Monday due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. Tuesday was space day, and students came to school dressed as something out of this world. On Wednesday students dressed as a Disney character. Students wore sports merchandise on Thursday for jersey day, and on Friday, they dressed as something starting with the same letter as their first name for Alphabet day.

Wild Week was busy with sports activities as well. On Tuesday, January 21, the teams played their first district home game against Poetry Community Christian Academy, which the girls varsity and the boys JV won.

On Thursday, January 23, there was a pep rally to introduce the 2024-2025 Basketball teams. On Friday there was another district home game against Christian Heritage Classical School from Longview.

On Friday morning, GC hosted the Overcoming Obstacles Ministry, who shared a gospel presentation and brought an obstacle course for students to try (see article on page 8). Friday evening the Middle School Winter Formal was held in the MPAC. The High School Winter Formal followed on Saturday evening (see article on page 10).



PreK4 students Avery and Lane Gumpert



Mr. Smith, Grant Bench, Khloe Montenegro, and Addie Pope



Cohen Hoover and Kindergarten teacher Mrs. Erin Staubli



9th grader Ella Lowe



Senior Kenzie Gladden



Mrs. Kinnard, Grace Long, Kylan Donnelly, and Ryder Brantner



4th grader Kadie Pierce



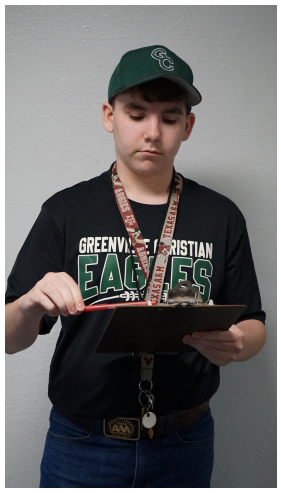
Khloe Montenegro and Addie Pope



5th graders Essie Franklin and Ellie Faseler



5th grader Cameron Dierschke



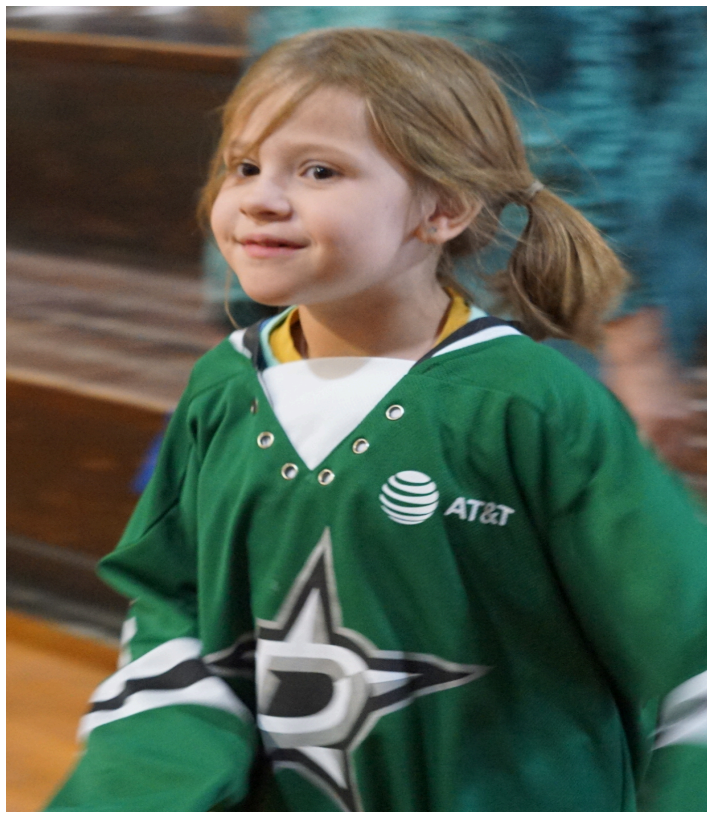
9th grader Caleb Pike



Freshmen Ian Dierschke, Ella Lowe, Jillian Nelson, and Caleb Pike



10th grader Joshua Horton as a jazz player



2nd grader Amelia Audo



1st grader Kole Reeves



8th grader Jamison Smith



8th grader Braeden Smith



Preschooler Calloway Bland



1st grader Jonas Nelson

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES MINISTRY

By Ryder Brantner

On Friday, January 24 GCS hosted the Overcoming Obstacles ministry. Overcoming Obstacles is a Christian group devoted to sharing the gospel message to young people through athletic obstacle course challenges. Spokesperson Lloyd Walker explained that the theme verse for this ministry is John 16:33. In this verse, Jesus says, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

The ninja challenges set up in the GC gym included a fourteen-foot wall, multiple hanging rings, a floating salmon ladder, and an obstacle race. Junior Erica Adams said, "I think it was an excellent way to symbolize the obstacles we all face in our physical and spiritual lives."

GC students were given time to attempt all of the challenges. The wall was very challenging, but many students, male and female, were able to reach the top. Third grader Deacon Fauley said his favorite obstacle was the wall because he liked hanging on the top. Athletic Director Thomas Dodson and GC Board member Paul Faseler were also able to "beat that wall."

The most popular obstacle for many younger students was the obstacle race. First graders Kennedy Reeves and Jonas Nelson said it was their favorite. Michael McWhorter liked the race because of the competition. First grade teacher Mrs. Kristyl Johnson also enojoyed racing through the obstacle course.



Sophomore Ryder Brantner



Mr. Lloyd Walker



1st grader Sawyer Pierce



Junior Owen Pittsinger and Freshman Tripper Whitt



Senior Kenzie Gladden



Jude Sherman (grade 3)



4th grader Emma Crowell



5th grader Grayson Ross



5th grader Liam Fauley



6th grader Carter Stout



1st grader Evelyn Phillips and 2nd grader Tessa White

GC STUDENTS ENJOY WINTER FORMALS

By Sofia Wagnon

The GC 2025 Winter Formals were held on January 24-25. The middle school event was on Friday evening, and the high school dance was on Saturday. These events were planned by the GC Student Council.

In addition to dancing, students could participate in many different activities at the Middle School Winter Formal. Many played a video game called "Just Dance." Others played a game called "Water Pong." There was also an epic limbo contest which was won by eighth grader Jacob Traverse. Seventh grader Cameron Faseler said "it was a fun time."

A photo booth was the highlight of the High School Winter Formal. Students had a wonderful time with their friends and took lots of pictures together. Freshman Jillian Nelson states that the dance was "intergalactic." Sophomore Grace Long said "Wow! I had a lovely time. The songs were epic and the dancing was awesome."



Middle school guys pose for a photo.



Middle school girls practice line dancing.



Middle Schoolers play "Just Dance"



7th grader Cambrie Pollard



8th graders Landon Boles and Allyson White



Ellen Dierschke and Emmett Ross



8th grader Jacob Traverse wins the limbo contest.



GC history teacher Mr. Lewis Smith gets "Footloose" with the middle school boys.



Jack Feezel and Kylan Donnelly



Addie Pope, Khloe Montenegro, Audra Atteberry, Grace Long



Mylie Wrinkle, Taylor Mahan, and Kenzie Gladden



Elizabeth Galyean and Avery Hudgeons



Owen Pittsinger and Kylan Donnelly



Ryder Brantner and Jacob Wacasey



KeeLee Donnelly, Ava Lowe, Davery Denney, Ella Lowe, Jillian Nelson



Landon Wilburn and Levi Smith



Austin Wilburn and Trinity Epley



Sadie Whitt and Maddie Montenegro



Allison Blaske and Erica Adams



Tristan Brown, Colton Cook, Ian Dierschke

AN EVENING OF JAZZ

By Landon Wilburn

Greenville Christian School is hosting a fundraiser called An Evening of Jazz on February 28th at Webb Hill Country Club. This event will require formal attire. It will consist of a reception, jazz music, dancing, dinner of prime rib or stuffed chicken, and a dessert bar.

The concert will feature Linear Groove, a nine-piece jazz band from the Metroplex area. The band covers many genres of music including swing, pop, and funk.

The tickets for this elegant event are $80. GC is also looking for corporate sponsors to support this event and the school fine arts programs. There are also four levels of sponsorships. Anyone interested in sponsoring An Evening of Jazz should contact GC Director of Development Sherry Holland for more information. Mark your calendars for this exciting event. It is something you won't want to miss!

GC ELECTS NEW BOARD

By Ryder Brantner

Greenville Christian School is governed by a Board of Trustees consisting of school parents. The Board helps the school in many ways such as ensuring academic growth, spiritual enrichment, and community engagement. Board members meet monthly to assess the progress, needs, finances, projects, and issues related to the school. In December of 2024, GC held elections for positions on the Board of Trustees. The Convocation newspaper staff would like to offer congratulations to our newly elected members and thank them for their dedication and service to our school. The Chairman is Mr. Levi Pope. Mr. Alex Boles serves as Vice Chairman. Mr. Paul Faseler is the Secretary, and Mr. Kyle Nelson is the Treasurer. Other members of the board include Mr. Scott Feezel, Mr. Richard Long, and Mr. Aaron Sherman.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST AUDITIONS

By Ryder Brantner

GCS is excited to announce the annual spring musical will take place March 20-23, 2025. The theatre department will be producing *Beauty and the Beast, Jr.* The production will be directed by GC drama teacher, Mrs. Jen Brown.

Recently, GC held auditions for the many roles available in this musical. Auditions were open to middle school as well as high school students. Judges for the auditions were Mrs. Brown, music teacher Mrs. Audra Tibboel, science teacher Mrs. Melissa Ross, and parent volunteer Mrs. Alison Pike. Mrs. Ross said that the one thing she looks for in an actor is emotion when they are reading their lines. She enjoys helping with the auditions because she gets to see all the talents of the students at our school. The auditions were very competitive this year with many students trying out for different roles.

Freshman Ian Dierschke tried out for the part of Maurice which he described as a “crazy old inventor.” This is Dierschke’s first musical audition despite being in past musicals as a stage hand. He said, “I was feeling really excited but also nervous because I had never done this before.”

Senior Taylor Mahan and sophomore Link Brown earned the title roles of Belle and the Beast. Seventh grader Siobhan Hibben will play the Enchantress. Kylan Donnelly will portray Gaston, and Braeden Smith will be his sidekick, Lefou. Ian Dierschke will act the part of Crazy Old Maurice, Belle's father. Lumiere will be played by eighth grader Jamison Smith, and his buddy Cogsworth will be portrayed by sixth grader Levi Robbins. Senior Anabella Wagnon will take on the role of Mrs. Potts, and sixth grader Will Mahan will play her son, Chip. Junior Hannah Johnson, freshman Davery Denney, and eighth grader Ellen Dierschke will be Les Filles de la Ville. Ellen Dierschke will also be the understudy for the role of Belle.

Congratulations to all these students. GC looks forward to seeing this amazing production.

GC SENIORS RIDE IN STOCKYARD PARADE

By Jillian Nelson

On January 18, GC Seniors Avery and Ella Rocky had the honor to ride in the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo All Western Parade. The parade took place at the Fort Worth Stockyards. They rode with a group called the 4 Seasons Renovations.

Twins Ella and Avery have been riding horses since they were about five years old, and it has been their constant passion. They received their own horses for Christmas about four years ago. Ella rode her horse Lincoln in the parade while Avery rode her horse named Chloe.





FRESHMAN CLASS TASTES RUSSIAN CUISINE

By Jillian Nelson

On Tuesday January 21, 2025 the freshman class sampled some foods from Russia and the former Soviet republics in conjunction with their studies in World Geography class.

Mrs. Alison Pike brought beef stroganoff, mashed potatoes, pasta and Apple Sharlotka. Beef stroganoff is a dish with mushrooms, steak, and sour cream. It can be eaten on noodles or with mashed potatoes. Apple Sharlotka is an apple cake topped with powdered sugar. Mrs. Allyson Pletcher prepared borscht, a vegetable soup with beets from Ukraine. This was something very different from normal student favorites. Mrs. Kelli Love brought some Russian tea cakes. These small round shortbread cookies with bits of pecan were very popular with the students.

Mrs. Kinnard and the ninth grade class would like to thank all the parents who volunteered to help our students learn more about this culture. The students enjoyed it very much. Freshman Reagan Love said, "Russia's food really shows the best of what the nation is and its culture."







Left to right: Levi Williams, Tristan brown, and Jacob Wacasey enjoy trying new foods.

LOVE IS IN THE AIR: JR. CLASS VALOGRAMS

By Sadie Whitt

This February, the junior class will be selling Valograms to help fundraise for their class fund. They will be selling vanilla and chocolate cupcakes, stuffed animals, and popcorn with m&m's. These items are priced at $2. Valograms are also available for purchase. When one of the songs is purchased for a student, the junior class will go to the student's class and sing to them. The song selection will include "You Are My Sunshine," "Lava," "Mr. Lonely," "What Makes You Beautiful," "Call Me Maybe," and "You Belong With Me." The orders should be submitted by February 7th, and will be delivered to the students on February 14th. Valograms can be purchased with either cash or check (payable to GCS). Please consider buying a Valogram to support your GC Junior class.

JV BASKETBALL

By Landon Wilburn

On January 21st, the GC Boys Junior Varsity Basketball team won their first game of the season against Poetry Community Christian School at a home game in the GC gymnasium.

The team worked very hard in practice before the game. Multiple people got career highs. Owen Johnson scored a personal best with a total of 20 points. Jacob Wacasey and Tripp Whitt also had their top scores with 15 and 12 points respectively. Owen Johnson said that "I couldn't have done it without my teammates."

The team is excited to play against Poetry again on Tuesday, February 4th in Poetry. Please come and support the GC teams and cheer them on to victory again.



Freshman Tripp Whitt



Freshman Jacob Wacasey

BASKETBALL PEP RALLY

By Landon Wilburn

On Thursday, January 23, GCS held a Pep Rally to honor the school's basketball teams. The various basketball teams were introduced, and the varsity cheerleaders performed their routine from the state cheer competition. There was also a skit featuring the beloved GC mascot, Eddie the Eagle. The girls and boys teams participated in a contest where cheerleaders made hoops with their arms and the basketball players had to shoot a pom pom into their hoop.



Sophomore Jack Feezel

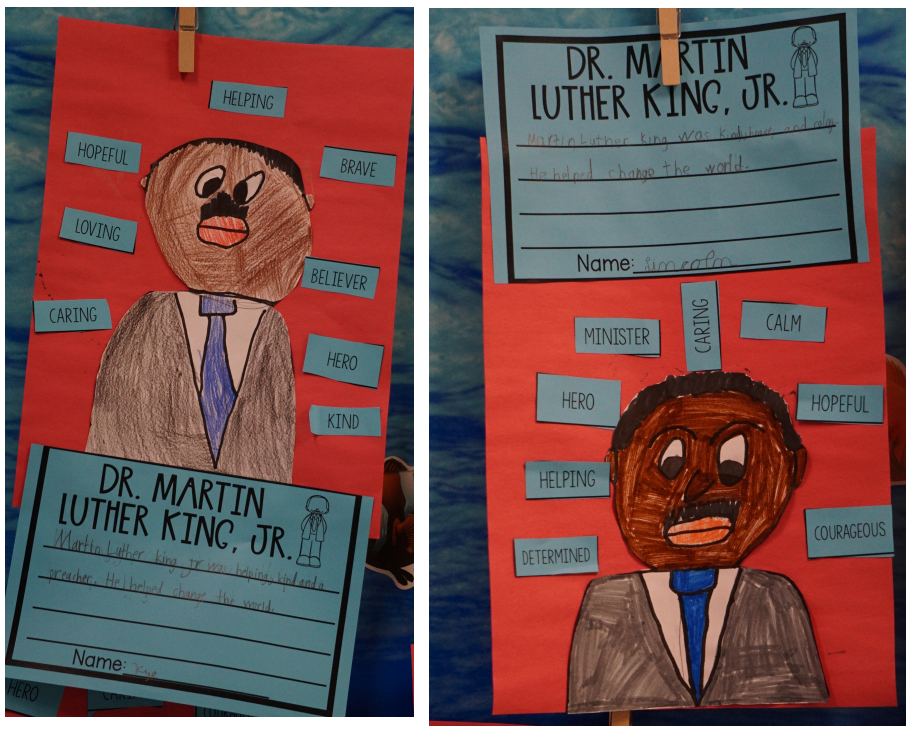
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY

By Sadie Whitt

On January 20th, schools across the country celebrate civil rights activist Martin Luther King, Jr. with a holiday. His life was marked by his passion for the civil rights movement, and his skillful use of the English language. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 and after his death he was awarded the presidential medal of freedom in 1977 and the congressional gold medal in 2007.

GC students learned about his work during the 1960's civil right movement and his inspirational "I Have a Dream" speech. Students memorize this famous speech in seventh grade. Second grade students decorated the elementary hallway with art projects focusing on Dr. King.

Other GC students learned about diversity as well. Mrs. Staubli's kindergarten class read a book about some of the challenges that many Americans faced in gaining equal rights. *Ron's Big Mission* is about nine-year-old African American Ron McNair who struggled to get a library card in his segregated hometown. McNair grew up to become a scientist and astronaut. He died in the tragic explosion of the Space Shuttle *Challenger* in 1986. The class re-enacted McNair's difficult task of getting his own library card.

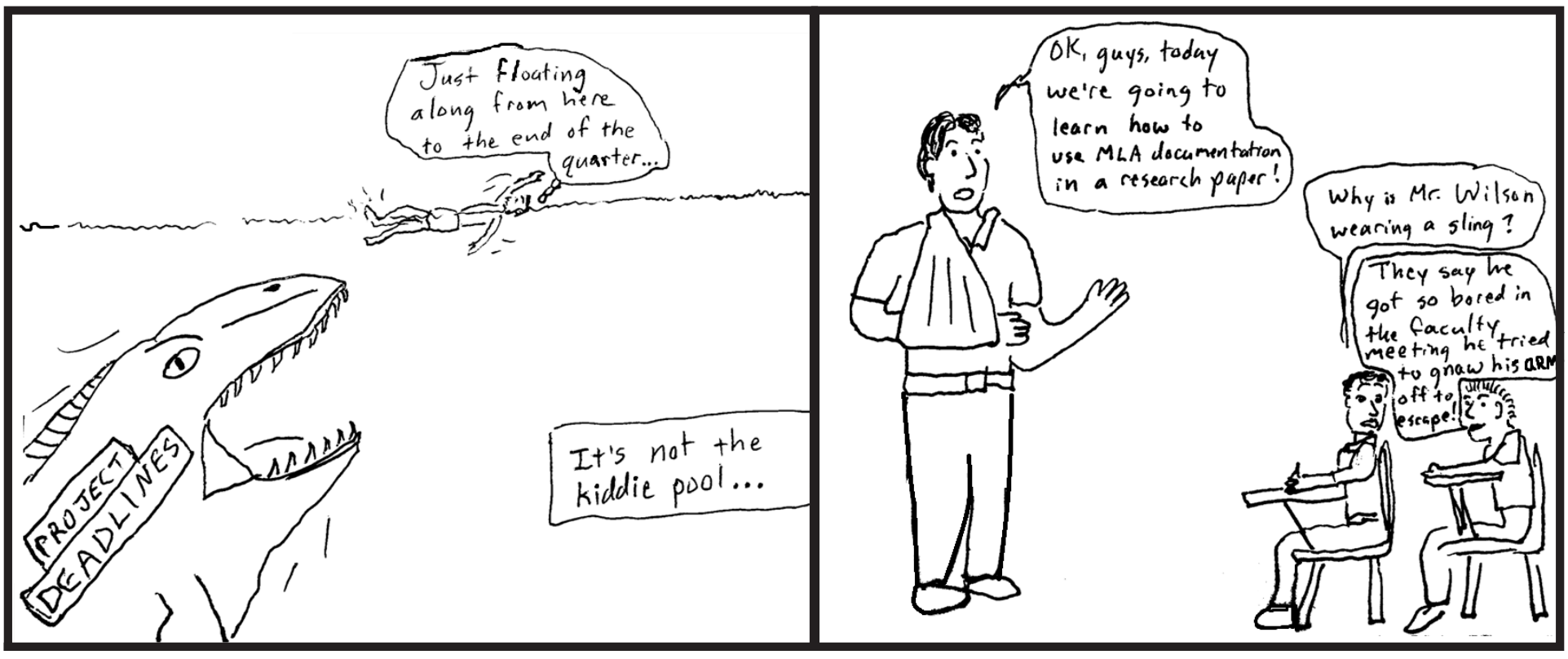


Second grade Martin Luther King projects



Mrs. Staubli's Kindergarten class

HIGH SCHOOL HIJINKS BY LEWIS B. SMITH



MADDIE MONTENEGRO

By Sofia Wagnon

Maddie Montenegro has been attending GC for three years, and is "so thankful for this school." Her favorite Bible verse is Psalms 34:17: “The Lord hears his people when they call to him for help. He rescues them from all their troubles.”

Maddie has many favorite memories at GCS. One was when her whole class tried crawl out of Mr. Smith's window to see if he would notice. (Don’t worry, this was before all of our new safety measures were implemented). Another was when Trinity was lifting weights with her toes (yes, you read that correctly) at a party and threw the weight into her wall, leaving a permanent mark.

Advice that she would give her freshman self would be to get involved, try new things, work hard, and have lots of fun because "it’s true when they say these years go by fast."

Although she has learned much from all her teachers at GCS, Maddie says Mrs. Dierschke has had the biggest impact: “She really dug in and didn’t let me give me up! She helped me learn that I was actually not too bad at this school thing! I am forever grateful to her for that!

When Maddie graduates, she plans on attending Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma to major in Education with a minor in ministry.



KAITLYN BOSS

By Sofia Wagnon



Kaitlyn Boss has been attending GCS since the first grade. Her favorite Bible passage is Jeremiah 29:11 which states, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." She is thrilled to not have a first period class this year and excited to go on the senior trip.

Kaitlyn's favorite memory from GC is the 6th grade class hedgehog. “To this day we still talk and laugh about having to take care of that hedgehog, we had to scrub his toes with a toothbrush and coconut oil, and we could only hold him with welding gloves on,” shares Kaitlyn.

Looking back, Kaitlyn states, "When I was a freshman, I was excited about being a Senior and graduating, but after seeing just how fast the years go, I would advise my freshman self to slow down and to not take all the memories and friendships for granted because those are the things I am going to remember and miss when I go off to college."

Kaitlyn attends Fellowship Bible Church and plans on attending Letourneau University to major in accounting after graduation.