

Guardian Angels School
217 West Second Street
Chaska, MN 55318
October 19, 2009

www.gachaska.org
952-227-4010
952-227-4050 Fax

Items sent home the week of October 22, 2009:

- Oktoberfest (flyer)
- Disney (flyer)
- Dr. Kahn (attachment)
- Food Drive Letter (attachment)

Dear Parents,

PUMP IT UP (RAKE IT UP!) RAKE-A-THON 2009

This is it – last call, last day! The planned day is tomorrow – Friday, October 23rd. We have been tracking the weather and are asking you for one more thing- prayers for good raking weather. If at all possible, we will rake as planned; if it makes a difference by altering our time, we may do that. If we absolutely can't rake on Friday, we will notify everyone of the rescheduled day. The current plan is to hold a prayer service in Church at 9:20 – planned by the Service Club and Mrs. Gallus. After the lunch periods, we gather at 12:35 to form teams, pray and head out to rake. All awards and results will announced at the end of the day. Remember, we still had \$23,000 left to collect to make the \$50,000 goal. We just have a very small number of students who have to bring in at least something to make 100% participation and that can and should certainly occur – and we are confident it will.

Thank Yous

- To Colleen Fraser and Michelle Godzak who helped out in the school office ☺
- To Sarah Baker, Lyn Heiland, Debbie Knudson and Jennifer Salwei for adopting a library class
- To the following families: Zugan, Radick and Hicks for book donations to the library in October

Discipline With Purpose

The skill currently under consideration is #2 Following Instructions. Ask your child how that is addressed at his or her grade level. We all know what a life skill that is for all of us and in many different situations – work and school, assembly of items, registration instructions, and more. On another topic, please see the parents' DWP tip below.



PARENTS TEACH RESPECT BY THEIR ACTIONS

By Barb Vasiloff

"The best gift a father can give his family is to show respect for his wife." I can't remember the source of

Teachers were held in high esteem and if one teacher did things differently from another their strengths were highlighted not their differences.

My mom told the teacher she would believe only 1/2 of what her children told her about school if the teacher would believe only 1/2 of what she heard

that quote but I do know that even as a child the idea was attractive to me.

There were certain words that were taboo in our household. Words like 'shut-up', 'hate', 'liar' as well as cuss words or profanity were never okay. Actions such as hitting, pulling on others, grabbing things, shouting, hurting others in any way were always discouraged. My parents modeled the behaviors they expected the four children to use. Their respect for one another was visible on a daily basis.

They also modeled and encouraged respect for educators and education by their actions.

about home life.

This mutual respect continued even when there were conflicts. The attitude, "What can we do together" to fix this problem helped us as children to not play one adult against another. We knew all sides of the story would come out if a conference was needed. And the children's side of the story was never taken unconditionally as the truth. "Let's just find out the teacher's point of view." was a familiar saying.

When I reflect on this now, I realize that the message that came across was that teachers and parents were advocates for children not adversaries. Do your actions communicate this lesson to your children?

Reproduction of this article in whole or in part allowed with proper credit given to:

Discipline With Purpose, Inc.

117 Woodland Circle
Reedsville, PA 17084
1-800-691-4DWP(4397)
1-717-247-0137
Fax - 717-247-0138
E-Mail DWPBV@aol.com

Parent/Teacher conferences are coming up next week. The On line conference sign up is available on the GA website under featured links until tomorrow Friday, Oct. 23rd. At that time, sign up will be removed so teachers can make direct contacts with parents of their students. Please sign up as soon as you can to save a lot of extra time for everyone. We are so grateful for the 100% parent participation we have for conferences, so we thank you for your cooperation.

****Hope to see all parents with your family and friends Saturday night at Dolce Vita – remember, it's a gift for everyone – Dan Keyport may get some extra customers for his generosity; you get to sample great beer and wines and German food; whatever is purchased means a gift for GA School!!***

Blessings,

Nancy Ronhovde



Reminder

Picture retake day is next Tuesday, Oct. 27th from 9:00-noon. You may wear casual clothes. If you need a picture retake form, please contact Mrs. Reznick in the school office. Thanks.

Lunch Menus-Reminder

The district no longer provides us lunch menus. You can visit the district at <http://www.district112.org/menus.html> to print off a menu, or there is a link on the GA school website, under student resources, then lunch menu, click to view the monthly menu. Teachers will have a paper copy posted in their classrooms.

Congratulations

- To the Vannett family on their new baby girl Gianna. She weighed 5 pounds, 10 oz.
- To Mr. Nick Leach & his wife Angela on their new baby girl Elaina Rose. She weighed 9.4 pounds, 20 inches

Prayer Corner

- For Beth Melander's aunt who died this week
- For Michelle Paradise's father (Wyatt's Grandpa), who will be having a medical procedure done soon
- For Corey Huson, who had surgery this week, and his family, (Nicholas' Dad)



Food Drive (See Attached Letter)

Hi! We're from the Third Grade and we would like to let everyone know that the fall Food Drive, Stuff a Truck, has started here at Guardian Angels School. Please bring any items that will not spoil such as: canned or boxed food, diapers, baby wipes, and soap. Our goal is to fill four grocery bags per classroom by Friday, November 13th. Remember that we are all missionaries, and this is one way we can give back to those who are less fortunate. Thank you for your generosity!

PTO Presentation

PTO is hosting a Dr. Kahn presentation on Thursday, November 5 from 6:30 pm to 7:45 pm in St. Francis Hall. The topic of his discussion will be "When Friendship Hurts". We hope that you will join us for this educational evening.

New Accelerated Reader Program

GA School's switch to the web-based Accelerated Reader program from Renaissance Learning is almost finished. The data has been checked, programs installed and other details are just a few days from completion. We will test the functionality and security before rolling it out to the students. During the next week you should familiarize yourself with the portion of AR called "Home Connect". There are two links below to inform you about the new tools you will have at home to help your student/s. Neither will take you more than 5 minutes and when the program is rolled out at GA School you will be ready to go.

The third link gives you overall information about Accelerated Reader that is important if your student hasn't been involved in it the reading program before. Thank you.

Mr. Blaufuss

gblaufuss@gachaska.org

Flash mouse-over features of Home Connect -

<http://www.renlearn.com/ar/overview/homeconnect.aspx>

A PDF for an overview of Home Connect -

<http://doc.renlearn.com/KMNet/R004122911GHD622.pdf>

A PDF "A Parent's Guide to Accelerated Reader"

<http://doc.renlearn.com/KMNet/R003985016GG79F2.pdf>

Felicities (School Uniforms) New Email Address

Effectively immediately their new email is sherrillvp@gmail.com



**SING TO THE LORD! With the Youth/Contemporary choir
this Saturday October 24 for 5 pm mass, rehearsal at 3:30.**

We're singing "Testify to Love" – check it out at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TgZ1ds0WM2k>



Next week, Thursday October 29th, will be our annual All Hallows Eve party held in the gym. All students may bring costumes to change into in the afternoon. **Father Paul has a contest going for the best Saint costume with 3 cash prizes. It is also a casual day for all students.** Middle School will be running all of the games for the K-5 students. If you are interested in coming please feel free to join us. The party will be starting at 1:30 this year and will end at 2:30. (It is the same day as the evening Parent/Teacher conferences, so we do need a little extra time to clean up at the end of the day.) Look for the letter sent home to the K-5 students to see if you are asked to bring a treat for the party. We will have a 3:00 pep fest that day at which we recognize all of the fall sports players and Father will announce the winners of the saints' contest.

**Holy Family Catholic High School
Fine Arts Department proudly presents...**



Please join us for this delightful musical presentation based on the books of Dr. Seuss. From Horton to the Cat in the Hat to the Whos down in Who-ville, all your favorite characters are on hand to keep you entertained.

- Oct. 29-31 at 7:30 pm**
- Nov. 1 at 2:00 pm**
- Nov. 5-8 at 7:30 pm**
- Nov. 8 at 2:00 pm**

All performances take place in the Holy Family Catholic High School Multi-Purpose Room. Advance tickets (Adults \$10/Students \$8) are available by calling 952.443.4659. Tickets may also be purchased at the door (Adults \$12/Students \$10).



The Middle School Service Club will be organizing the Samaritan's Purse—Operation Christmas Child project this year. While you and your family may not be in the Christmas Spirit quite yet, we'd like to jump start the season for you! Our goal is to pack up 40 shoeboxes with small items for Christmas. This project needs to start early because all the boxes need to be mailed overseas, which can take 4-6 weeks for delivery. Please bring Mrs. Gallus any shoeboxes or items from the list below that your family would be able to donate to this worthy cause. Cash donations will also be accepted at GA to help defray the cost of shipping, which is \$7.00 per box. Let's help bring lots of smiles to children's faces this year!

GIFT IDEAS:

TOYS

small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch®, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky®, etc.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

pens, pencils and sharpener, crayons or markers, stamps and ink pad sets, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.

HYGIENE ITEMS

toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag), comb, washcloth, etc.

OTHER

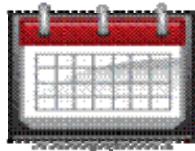
Hard candy and lollipops (please double bag all candy), mints, gum, T-shirts, socks, ball caps; sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries)

A PERSONAL NOTE

In a separate envelope, you may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family. (If you include your name and address, the child may write back.)

DO NOT INCLUDE:

Used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; chocolate or food; out-of-date candy; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snowglobes or glass containers; aerosol cans



Calendar of Events:

Oct. 23 – Prayer Service for Rake a thon &
Rake a thon

(final collection day)

Oct. 27 – 9-noon Picture Retake day

Oct. 28 – Mass – 3rd Grade

Oct. 29 – Carnival/Evening Conferences

Oct. 30 – **NO SCHOOL – Conferences**

Oct. 31 – **Happy Halloween** ☺

Nov. 3 – 9:20 7 & 8 Grade Holy Family-play

Nov. 4 – Mass (8th Grade)

Nov. 5 – 6:30 PTO

Nov. 6 – 6-9 pm Middle School Dance
 Nov. 9-11 – Camp Long Lake (grade 6)
 Nov. 11 – Mass (2nd Grade)

Lunchroom & Playground Helpers

Lunchroom Playground Playground

Mon	October	26	Kari Bork	Carla Shermock	Maureen Tesch
Tues	October	27	Stacy Dunlap	Stacey Stoffel	Jeanne Karschnia
Wed	October	28	Jessica Oberprillar	Jackie Weber	Barb Winfield
Thurs	October	29	Jen Dowling	tonya dubois	Sarah Baker
Fri	October	30	No School		



SPORTS CORNER

Tonight

Varsity Volleyball plays at 4:30 p.m. & 5:30 p.m. at St. Michael's, Prior Lake

Saturday, October 24th

Cub Silver Volleyball at home 8:00 & 9:30

Volunteer Schedule

10/24/2009	8:00	8:45	9:30
Line Judge	Crowell	Crowell	Kelly
Scorebook	Braden	Braden	Miller
Scoreboard	Vettel	Vettel	Shelley
Concessions	Miller	Farr	Farr

Soccer 10:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Grace

Thursday, October 29th 3:00 Pep Fest (Fall Sports)

Saturday, October 31st

Volleyball tournaments – Times TBA

October 22, 2009

Dear G.A. Families:

Guardian Angels School is participating in the fall food drive for the Carver-Scott Food Shelf, run by the CAP Agency, and organized by Cooper's County Market. Due to the continuing slow economic recovery, the food shelf will need more food than ever, and we would like to present this opportunity to help those in need of using the food shelf.

The food will be collected from now until November 13th. Please have your child bring your donation to his/her classroom from now until November 13th.

Some suggested food items include: baked beans, black beans, canned fruit, canned tuna, macaroni and cheese, peanut butter, soups, etc. Some suggested household items include: bar soap, baby diapers, laundry detergent, shampoo, toilet paper, and toothpaste.

Since we are all in need in some way, please look into your heart to help those less fortunate in our community. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Becker. Thank you in advance for your contribution to this worthy cause.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Becker
Third Grade Teacher

Snow on Green Leaves

I live in a part of the country where we can usually count on four predictable seasons. Summers are warm. Leaves change color in fall. Winter is cold and snowy. Spring is marked by new growth. But last week we had snow on green leaves.

People in Minnesota talk about the weather a lot, sometimes as part of the greeting when they first see each other. “How are you?” followed by a comment like, “Bit on the cool side,” or “Could be warmer.” As if people were judging the day and finding it not all what they were expecting. You can imagine the shock and self-righteous indignation with snow the first week of October! “This isn’t right. Way too early. The leaves haven’t even finished changing color yet.”

Let me tell you what I think this has to do with parenting.

Too often parents get more upset or worried about an incident with their children than seems warranted. And the reason for some of this overreaction is that we are comparing (without awareness) our children’s behavior to some ideal. We compare and find their behavior to fall short of the standard. Then with that failure to meet the standard in clear view, we start to get worked up and before we know it we are overly worried or overly angry. Here are two examples.

Imagine a 6- or 7-year-old girl who brings a snack to her bedroom, hears her parent walking down the hall and tries to hide the packaging under the bed and promptly forgets it is there. The next day, the parent finds the “evidence” and the girl says something brilliant: “It wasn’t me. I don’t know how it got there.” Or, maybe an 8- or 9-year-old boy is all excited about a birthday party but right when it is time to go, feels nervous, changes his mind and says he doesn’t want to go.

Both examples are typical childhood events, frequently occurring and not remarkable in any way. The girl needs to be held accountable for her mistake, the boy needs a few words of encouragement. But here is where it gets tricky for parents.

What if the first parent compares her daughter's behavior to an ideal? "This is not acceptable. Don't lie to me, little girl." Or the boy's parent: "Something is seriously wrong. You can not just change your mind at the last minute." When parents make these kinds of comments they are clues to me that they are not staying connected to their child, dealing with the challenge of the day, comforting and disciplining, and accepting that parenting includes such times. These are the flags of judging and comparing, rather than accepting and staying connected. And that is when we get more worried and more angry than the childhood event requires.

Seven-year-olds make mistakes and lying to parents is an example of an age-appropriate mistake. Lying at a young age doesn't give us any data about whether there will be lying problems in the future. Nine-year-olds can get nervous before a birthday party and decide at the last minute not to go. And while that might mean they miss out on some fun, it doesn't mean they will spend years of their childhood hiding in their rooms with serious social problems. And there is definitely no advantage to bringing in a benchmark (e.g., 9-year-olds shouldn't renege on their word). *Parenting is what we do when they do what they do.* No sense getting upset about what is right in front of us. Better to stay connected with our children at all times and use what we can to teach what they need to learn.

Not so different from the weather. Almost everyone I talked to last week about the early snow was annoyed. Except for my wife, who kept saying the snow on green leaves was one of the most beautiful sights she had ever seen. Instead of wishing things were different, it is better when we just show up, enjoy the day as much as we possibly can, and deal with whatever the weather or our children have in store for us.

Dr. Steve Kahn is the author of *Insightful Parenting: Making Moments Count*. Please check www.drstevekahn.com for additional (free) articles about parenting or to learn more about the book, available both in paperback and as an audio book. Please feel free to share this article with others.