

Communicator

Information for the Grenada School District Community

October 26, 2020

Olympic gold medalist

Mildrette Netter White (left) of

Grenada visited the Kidzeum at GES Red Top to speak to

Adjustments and Adaptations



Superintendent's Message Dr. David Daigneault

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way Americans work and conduct their lives. Few professions have been as impacted as teaching.

Since this all began in the spring, our teachers have answered the call. They've adapted, reconfigured, learned new strategies and technologies, and gone the extra mile, even when facing a steep uphill climb.

Throughout the year, new guidelines and circumstances have forced educators to adjust on the fly. Especially these last ten weeks that students have been back in the classroom or, as never before, the virtual learning space.

Teachers' increased workloads include the demands of learning Canvas, a new educational management system. In addition to building assessments and developing instructional material for the classroom, many teachers must design for online learning as well. We have staff who are teaching classes in three formats — traditional, virtual and hybrid. Each method comes with its one unique preparation.

This semester teachers have faced more frequent contact with parents. They've met new challenges in processing attendance and monitoring health safety guidelines such as facial coverings and social distancing. The run of everyday tasks, from teaching to grading to problem-solving technology, have only become more complex in the time of COVID.

I'm frankly astounded by how our teachers have responded. Their perseverance and dedication are an inspiration, not only to me, but the administrators and surely students as well.

We believe that it's important to provide our teachers with all the resources they need to offer your children the highest quality education possible. As we all know, time is one of the most precious resources.

That's why the school board recently approved a plan to give teachers extra time to catch up on the many new tasks in this new school environment. This plan will require some accommodation from students and parents as well.

Beginning October 23 and lasting through the end of the semester, Grenada High School and Middle School will run a condensed schedule on Fridays. Students will meet all class periods and be released at 1:05 p.m., with buses running at 1:12. We believe this extra time will help our staff catch up so they can continue providing a quality education.

Letting out classes after lunch (which will continue to be provided on Fridays) is one thing for middle and high school students, but the burden is greater for parents of elementary students.

We took that into account when planning two work days for teachers at GES Red Top and Green Top. Elementary students will attend school virtually on Friday, November 20, and Friday, December 18. This will allow our teachers additional time to catch up before two extended holidays.

See "Adjustments" Continued on page 6

Adjustments and The Kidzeum's Latest 'Celebration'



By Jamie Kornegay GSD Reporter

The Kidzeum at Grenada Elementary School PreK-3 celebrated being together again with their latest exhibit, Celebrations.

"Everyone around the world celebrates," said Kidzeum director Melanie Williams. "We all celebrate in similar ways ... through art, music, and sports."

The theme was in keeping with

the Kidzeum's mission of enhancing classroom standards while teaching students aspects of world culture and history through engaging activities and simulations.

Entering the new exhibit, visitors were delighted to see a collection of colorful umbrellas hanging from the ceiling. The decor was inspired by the street canopy at Portugal's famous Ágitagueda Art Festival, which students pretended to visit during their tour.

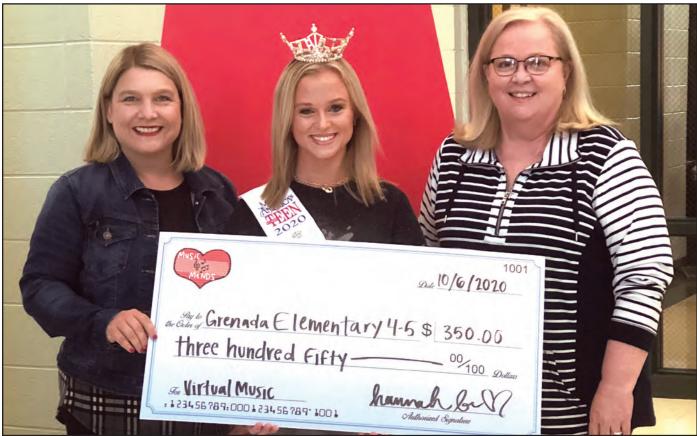
students about her experiences at the 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico City. White's visit was the crowning event in the Kidzeum's first exhibit of 2020, "Celebrations." Kidzeum director Melanie Williams presents White with the museum's first-ever Dream Big Award.

"We showed them statues and art from Africa and all parts of the world," said Williams. "We showed them works by famous artists such as Picasso, Monet, and Mondrian."

For an art activity, students learned about pointillism, a technique which uses dots of colored paint to create an imagen, and then painted his or her own pointillistic creation.

See "Celebrations" page 2

Miss Delta Outstanding Teen Raises Money for GES 4-5



GHS senior and Miss Delta Outstanding Teen 2020 Hannah Briscoe (center) raised money this semester to provide musical instruments to fourth and fifth grade virtual students in the classes of Amy Killebrew (left). Killebrew and GES 4-5 Principal Carol Tharpe (right) accepted the check from Briscoe's musical therapy mission, Music Mends. "I am so thankful to Hannah and her Music Mends program for raising money to help my virtual students receive music instruments," Killebrew said. "This will enhance their ability to complete their online music assignments at home. Music has been proven over and over again to increase student test scores and performance in their academic classes. Our school district does a great job in providing that."

GMS Teacher Wins Office Chair from Criss Office Supply



Grenada Middle School teacher Maggie Grimmett was the lucky winner of a new office chair from Criss Office Supply. Teachers who purchased back-to-school supplies at Criss Office Supply were entered for a chance to win the chair.

"Celebrations"

Continued from Page 1

"We talked about how we celebrate different holidays with music," said Williams. "The kids said birthdays, Christmas and the Fourth of July were all times when they listened to music."

Students were introduced to various styles of music and different instruments from all over the world. They even learned to play "Bingo" on Boomwhackers, which are tubular percussion instruments tuned to different musical pitches.

Williams updated the Celebrations exhibit from a previous lesson and said the staff had planned to unveil the new theme after spring break back in March. When the coronavirus arrived and shut down school, they waited until classes got back in full swing before reopening the Kidzeum after Labor Day.

"The plan last spring was to have an Olympic unit to look ahead to the Summer Olympics, which were scheduled to be held last summer in Tokyo," she said. "We went ahead and talked about the Olympics, how it's a huge celebration of sports with over 200 countries participating."

Students learned about the history of the ancient Greek games as well as the meaning of the colorful interlocking rings and torch that symbolize the event.

The big climax of the exhibit was a visit by Grenada's own Olympic gold medal winner, Mildrette Netter White, who competed in the 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico City. Her fourwoman team placed first and set a world-record time in the 4 x 100 meter relay.

They weren't able to host a mass assembly due to social distancing, so White spoke to 14 individual classes of third graders on the last day of the exhibit. "She encouraged them, talked about following your dreams, and using

your gifts to help others," Williams said. "We were all tearing up and had goosebumps."

White was inducted into the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame in 2003, and in 2018, the track and field was named after her at her alma mater, Alcorn State University. Williams said that because of White's success, college track teams and scholarships started becoming available to women in Mississippi.

Visitors also spent time in Kidz Tech, the new technology lab where kids learn coding and robotics. For this unit, second and third graders had to train Dash the robot for the Olympic basketball team by programming it to catapult a ball into a basket.

First graders worked on a LEGO coding project where they built a glow worm and made it light up, and kindergarteners learned about lighter and heavier objects by building and testing see-saws.

Williams, who is joined in the Kidzeum by assistant Brittany Carpenter and Tanganetta Moore, said they've adjusted to the new norms to keep kids germ-free. "We're disinfecting between groups and making sure that no one touches the same things," she said. "We use lots of Germ-X and Lysol."

After fall break, the Kidzeum opened its new exhibit, Canada, which will teach students about our neighbors to the north. That unit will pave the way for a Canadian Christmas unit later this year.

Williams encouraged friends of the Kidzeum to look ahead to the holidays and purchase a Kidzeum T-shirt (\$16) to help fund the in-school, hands-on children's museum.

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Due to COVID-19 Guidelines, The Grenada School District asks for each person to use hand sanitizer when entering the building and to practice social distancing.



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21st Century Receives Grant to Expand After School Programs to Include Elementary

By Jamie Kornegay GSD Reporter

A popular after-school program at Grenada Middle and High Schools has expanded to include elementary students, thanks to a grant from the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Center.

The \$1.36 million grant will fund after-school skills and tutoring classes at the Grenada Elementary's PreK-3 ("Red Top") and 4-5 ("Green Top") for four years, said Lynne Russell, Administrative Operations Officers and 21st CCLC Coordinator.

"We've seen great success with the middle and high school programs, including an increase in graduation rates and test scores since our first 21st Century grant in 2007," Russell said. "We've been studying ways to expand the classes to our elementary students, so the timing couldn't have been better."

The 21st CCLC includes two types of classes.

The small-group tutoring sessions, led by GSD teachers, are designed to provide extra help for students who may be struggling in a particular subject.

A series of skills classes introduce students to new subjects and offer a deeper focus on areas of interest.

In addition to tutoring classes, the Red Top will offer a STEAM (Science,

Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) class with Kidzeum director Melanie Williams, a music class with Diana Burt, a kinesthetics physical activity class with Keisha Harrison and Tasha Lemley, a science group with Melanie Harlowe, and three book clubs for various reading levels with Becky Surrell, Julie Cummins, and Penny Walton.

The Green Top will offer tutoring as well as skills classes like "Cliffhangers" Book Club with Pam Briscoe, "Discovery" Science Lab with Taylor Buchanan, "Always Right" Math Club with Lisa Jordan, Vocal/Instrumental Music with Devon Tipton, and "Kinesthetic Kids" with Anna Mills.

Russell said the elementary classes will be held three times a week, though students will meet once a week for any particular class. This scheduling will allow students to explore their interests by participating in multiple subject areas.

"A kid could get help tutoring in reading on Monday, math on Tuesday, and attend music on Thursday," Russell said. "We tried to offer a variety of classes to appeal to a variety of kids."

Green Top Principal Carol Tharpe previewed some of the exciting offerings her school is planning, including a visiting author to meet with book club students and 3-D printing projects in the Discovery Lab.

"With students being out of school



Students in the Photoshop summer class learned about layered cardstock designs. GMS student Xavier Cotton created a layered paw print in honor of his dog Mikey.

since last March, I think they're eager for more interaction with both their peers and teachers," Tharpe said. "We're thankful to be able to offer our students this first-ever opportunity to participate in unique experiences while growing academically and physically under the leadership of the highly qualified staff at the Green Top."

See "21st Century" Continued on page 6

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GES 4-5 Class Creates Dioramas of Biomes

Ms. Laster's science class at Grenada Elementary 4-5 studied biomes and ecosystems during the first nine weeks. A biome, students discovered, are biological communities that form and adapt in distinct environments. Each student chose an ecosystem, ranging from oceans and deserts to savannas and tundras.

They studied which plants and animals lived in these ecosystems and how they thrived among the unique geographic and climate conditions. Students created dioramas to illustrate the variety of plant and animal life in their chosen biome. They were asked to include a food chain and label the characteristics of the organisms, including producers, consumers, herbivores, carnivores, omnivores, and decomposers.

Photos by Krystle Laster



Bailey Prewitt



Kalanden Brooks



Ruby Kornegay



Cadence Vanstory



Kedderion Miers



Rylee Hoop



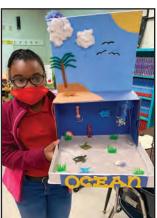
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GMS Project Lead the Way Students Receive CPR Certification



Grenada Middle School Project Lead the Way participant Drew Dalton learns CPR with a training manakin.

By Stephanie Raper **GSD Reporter**

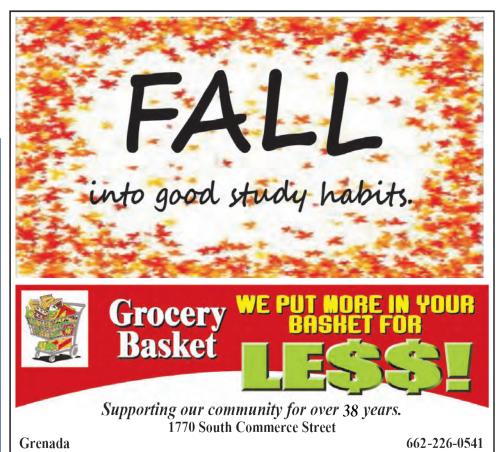
Lifesaving skills are always important, but during a pandemic, they become extremely important! The Grenada Middle School Project Lead the Way Medical Detectives class recently upped their medical knowledge during a CPR/AED certification course. The course allowed students to gain proficiencies that might one day save a life.

Seth Loman, an instructor with CPR Stars from Brandon, Mississippi, conducted the training that allowed students to practice performing CPR, learn the heimlich maneuver, and become familiar with an automated external defibrillator (AED) in an emergency situation. Each student was required to pass a hands-on practical test of these methods to receive their two year Emergency Response Certification.

The Medical Detectives class is taught by Mr. Ryan Melton. Seventeen students are enrolled in the class, which gives students the opportunity to research and diagnose many diseases and ailments. Medical Detectives explores the biomedi cal sciences through hands-on projects and labs that require students to solve a variety of medical mysteries.

One of the first projects for students this year was to conduct an investigation into how COVID 19 has spread through Mississippi and how each county affects the others. During the course of the year, GMS Medical Detectives will also complete a sheep brain dissection, looking for different areas that might be affected by tumors. Students will also investigate medical careers, vital signs, and human body systems such as the nervous system. They will end the course by completing a series of crime scene investigations.





GHS Homecoming 2020



(back, I to r) 2019 Homecoming Queen Kennedy Jenkins, GHS Principal Emily Tindall, father of the 2020 Homecoming Queen Sheldon Herrington, 2020 Homecoming Queen Kayla Herrington, GSD Superintendent Dr. David Daigneault, (front I to r) Children of the Court Brysen Surrell and Violet Boeni



Senior Maids (I to r) Cinaiya Brown, Anna James, Hallie Kerr, and Kayla Herrington



Children of the Court Brysen Surrell and Violet Boeni



Maggie Painter and Harlee Williams



Sophomore Maids
Danica Caulder and Kayla Robinson



Junior MaidsSidney Claire Brown and Autumn Davis

Rock Your School at GES



Joseph Harville



Aarav Kher

By Jamie Kornegay GSD Reporter

Students at Grenada Elementary School (PreK-3) were rocked in September when they arrived to find their classrooms made over and teachers in costume. The day of classroom fun was part of a fast-growing movement in education known as Rock Your School celebration.

The national event is organized by Get Your Teach On, a teacher initiative that promotes heightened engagement in the classroom. Started by fellow educators, the event challenges teachers to think



Alyssia Hobbs

outside the box and develop exciting activities to enhance their curriculum.

"Teachers are competing with games and videos to win their students' attention," said Principal Cole Surrell. "The idea is to come up with lessons that teach and entertain at the same time."

Walk the halls on Rock Your School Day and you'll find a lot of movement and activity.

One Pre-K class became a Starbucks coffee shop for a day — hold the caffeine — and children counted coffee beans.



Third grade students in Ms. Walker's and Ms. Boyle's classes solved a crime scene mystery. Principal Surrell had been kidnapped, and students were required to exhibit math and reading skills to uncover the clues to return him safely.

"I walked around and talked to kids during the day, and they knew exactly what they were doing and why," said Surrell. "At this age especially, they become more involved in their education when they enjoy what they're doing."

"21st Century"

Continued from Page 3

"The biggest thing I hope to see is kids developing a deeper love for reading," said Russell. "I also think that the technology in the tutoring and skills classes will give some kids an interest in something new. The purpose of this program is not only to bring kids up to speed in their classroom studies but also to spark their interest in a different way than normal school classes."

The free tutoring and skills classes have been popular with GHS and GMS students since the program launched 13 years ago. The flagship 21st CCLC continues this spring at the Grenada Career and Technical Center with tutoring classes and skills classes in podcasting, pottery, Photoshop, culinary arts, building trades, auto trades, welding, weightlifting, and archery.

All classes include free snacks and bus transportation home. Russell advised that interested students should have their parents contact the principal at his or her school or call the Parent Center at 662-227-3370. If a class fills up before a student can register, their name will be placed on a waiting list.

Classes for GMS and GHS are after school Mondays and Wednesdays (3:30-5:30), beginning October 26, 2020, until the last week of April, 2021.

Classes for the Red Top and Green Top are after school Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursday (2:30-5:30), beginning November 2, 2020, until the first week of May, 2021.

Russell said that the 21st Century grant will provide for a summer program for all schools. The same classes will be offered, and students will attend five days a week from 8 a.m. to noon.

Applications for the summer session, which will be held June 2-29, will be made available in late March or early April. Preference is given to students who have been previously enrolled in the program.

Grenada School District

"Adjustments"

Continued from Page 1

Grab and go lunches will be provided at the high school for all GSD elementary and virtual students on these two days from 10:30-11:30 a.m. The elementary principals will be sending out a notice about the work required for our elementary students. The preschool calendar will remain unchanged. Pre-K students will attend as previously scheduled.

GSD continues to adapt to the ongoing pandemic by refining our virtual and hybrid model. Based on registration surveys, we have identified 600 households in need of wireless internet to complete online school work. We will be able to provide these families with a hotspot

before the end of this semester.

Each household in need will receive a hotspot. These devices will be provided for students to complete work and are not suitable for recreational household use. They will be filtered accordingly to give access only to school-appropriate sites.

Undoubtedly we will face more challenges before the year is out, but we are working everyday to come up with novel solutions. It's encouraging to have such a committed corps of teachers and faculty willing to respond to these challenges as we all maneuver together through difficult times.

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Coordinator, Mrs. Kim Ezell; ADA/504 Coordinator, Dr. Lyle Williams; Grenada School

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GSD Honors Cancer Survivors During Annual Pink Out Game











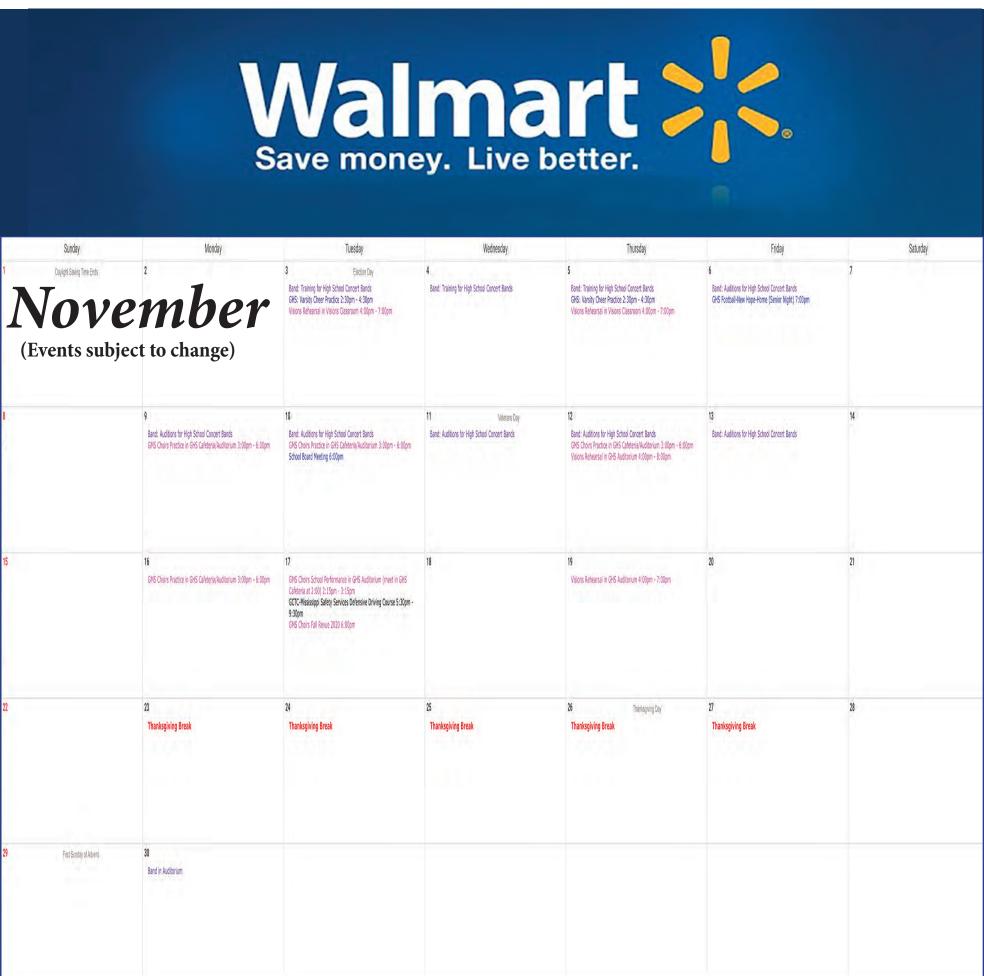






Current and retired staff of Grenada School District were honored at the annual Pink Out football game on October 8 at Charger Stadium. The eight honorees made up the "Parade of Champions." Each received a crown and flower bouquet to honor their battle with cancer and survival. Event organizer Lori Chavis crowned the honorees, who included (I to r) Tracy Aldridge, a teacher at GHS for 22 years before retiring in May; Patsy Reed, GHS cafeteria worker; Jessica Baker, GES teacher for the past 14 years; Heather King, GES teacher for the past three years; Leslie Lancaster, a 20-year PE teacher at GES and coach of the Lady Charger softball team; Deborah Reece, a 16-year teacher at GMS; and Ken Ross, retired GHS Lady Charger basketball coach.

Photos by Ezzard Beane



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Students in Anise Shuffield's Health Science class at Grenada Career and Technical Center recently hosted a health safety expert, John Hubbard (center) from the safety division at Farm Bureau. Hubbard spoke to students for three days about emergency first aid, including bleeds, burns, lacerations and amputations. Students in the health class include (back, I to r) Lanie Williams, Cailey Newton, Coty Golden, Alyssia Biggins, Tia Ewing, (front, I to r) Faith Avery and Emma Brasher.



2020 GHS Varsity Football



(front row, I to r) Coach Jim Tindall, Jaylin Patterson, Jacob Yarborough, Odarius Hill, Jaylon Skinner, Busta Brown, Tylann Kimble, Jordan Topps, Tyler Hardwick, Chris Booker, Jayson Swinford, Zaquarrius Cobbs, Jaylon Williams, Coach Ashley Kuhn, (2nd row, I to r) Coach Chip Foster, Eddie Lewis, Jalon Townes, Amare Harris, TraDeric McCord, Jaylen Eaden, Rashad Taylor, Robert Nason, Javarious Boclaire, Takyrez Blanch, Jordan Harris, Jaquon Bledsoe, Joe Moss, Coach Jerimy Watson, (3rd row, I to r) Coach Flip Conley, Trey Parker, Cameron McBride, Jadarius Steen, James Boatman, Aundrell Parker, Nick Stewart, Cedonte Miers, Trent Hubbard, Jacob Chavis, Ryan Wood, Ronnie Willis, Jakameon Perry, Benjamin Dyson, Jahiem Shack, Coach Reiv Wood, (4th row, I to r) Trelyn Smith, Derrick Harbin, Thomas Boyette, Alvin Thomas, Keshawn Brown, Eddie Knox, Devontarius Booker, Bryce Kirk, Gage Griffin, Ashton Ross, Thomas Kuhn, Amari Conley, Brent Jones, Dmarin Burns, Coach Demarcus Helm, (5th row, I to r) trainer Micah McKee, Derrein Conley, Landon Trusty, Sidney Martin, Omarius Winfrey, Javarious Pratt, Keith Jewel, Aaric Ross, Zaccheus Woodall, Ethan Klinck, Jhordan During, Tyler Sigers, Isaias Gordillo, Kodi Hardwick, Joshua Phillips, Coach Carlton Brown, (6th row, I to r) Coach Justin Purvis, Keithrick Stewart, Jamie Gant, Zytavion Clay, Hunter Bennett, Tylon Hubbard, Stephen Whaley, Danny Ammons, Ra'Ell Rice, Bryan Deloach, Tirell Conley, Lazarus Conley, Charles Deloach, Jaylon Ammons, Tykeidrel Moore, Coach Tyler Johnson.

