

A Boost from the Community



Superintendent's Message Dr. David Daigneault

These days, it's easy to dwell on the negative. Turn on the television, and some days it seems there's more going wrong in the world than right.

Maybe that's why we look forward to the holiday season. It's a time to refocus on the local, to reflect, and give thanks for our personal blessings ... to look on the bright side.

Here at Grenada School District, we have many reasons to be thankful. First, we enjoy our unique perspective on this community as we shepherd Grenada's young people through their childhood and teenage years and propel them toward adulthood.

We're especially grateful for the people in our community who share our sense of duty and who take an active role in our mission. When a community works together the way it should — the way we often see it working — it can be enormously inspiring.

In the midst of the holiday season, I would like to use this space to pay thanks to the people who help make Grenada one of the strongest school districts in the state. Our teachers, administrators, and school board members perform heroic tasks every day to keep this ship afloat, but there are many others — parents and community members — whose efforts also deserve to be recognized.

This semester, as always, we were humbled by the efforts of booster club members who look after students, help raise money, and roll up their sleeves to do heavy lifting for some of our biggest organizations on campus.

When I began working in Grenada in the late 1970s, I learned first-hand how vital the band boosters' support factored into the program's success. This network of parents and friends conduct raffles, pizza sales, and other fundraisers to help finance the band's ambitious projects. During the hottest months of marching season, they show up at rehearsals, both after-school and during fourth period band class, to provide water for the students. They volunteer for the herculean task of putting on the annual state marching band evaluation, which hosts more than 3,000 students along with a large audience in Charger Stadium. They chaperone band trips and prepare sandwiches and snacks. (Believe me, after marching in a competition or sitting in the bleachers for four quarters of football, there's nothing better than a band sandwich!)

In case you didn't know, the band boosters also run three concession stands at home football games. The proceeds go to the band and make the football experience more enjoyable for fans.

See "Boost"
Continued on page 7

First Recycle Contest at GES Discovery Lab

By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter

On a recent tour of the Grenada Elementary Green Top's Discovery Lab, director Taylor Buchanan showed off a storage closet filled with odd, intriguing figurines: a robot composed of Kleenex boxes and paper towel rolls; a Santa Claus made of milk cartons; a tree fashioned out of a copper wire, and a dog constructed from tin cans and spoons. Pool filters and melted plastic transformed into flower bouquets.

The items weren't gifts from Buchanan's students, but entries in the lab's Recyclable Materials Sculpture Contest, co-sponsored by the Grenada Garden Club.

"They're blowing my mind with some of these," Buchanan said.

All fourth and fifth-grade students at the Green Top were eligible to enter. Buchanan said that some science teachers made it a required project.

The sculptures were judged on Friday, November 16, by representatives from local industry.

Marianne Clark, who represented the garden club as a member of the Youth Gardeners committee, was thrilled by the entries. "We're amazed," she said when she arrived Friday morning. "We thought there would be 30 or 40 projects, but there's over 170!"

Judges Clayton Walls from Resolute; Clancy Sohn, director of the Social Security Administration; Eric Escobedo of Tru-lite Glass; and Angela Blissett from ADP all made a thorough sweep of the tables. They based their scores on creativity, description of materials, and technique.

Fourth-grader Meah Dirks designed the first-prize winner, a tree made of copper wire. Fifth-grader Robert McKnight won second place for his tin-can dog, and fifth grader Emma Roberts finished in third



(front, l to r) Tyler Boyle, Marshayla Bullins, Sara Daves, Jeff David Milner, (back, l to r) Emma Roberts, Kaydon Harrison, Robert McKnight, and Shanvi Kher

place with her tin-can wind chimes.

Winners received prizes donated by local businesses. Prizes included a basket of lunchbox snacks, pizza coupons, movie tickets, and science experiment kits. The Grenada Garden Club will take the top nine projects to the state sculpture competition in Jackson, and from there, winners will go on to compete in the National Garden Club contest.

Other winning students who will compete in the state contest include Tyler Boyle, Kaydon Harrison, Marshayla Bullins, Shanvi Kher, Jeff David Milner, and Sara Daves.

Buchanan adopted the recycling message for her own classroom experiments, including a demonstration of how to make edible water bottles. She showed the students how to make small bite size "blobs" of water using sodium alginate.

"I asked them why they'd want to make an edible water bottle," she said. "They knew right away it was to cut down on plastic waste."

Tens of billions of plastic water bottles were produced in the U.S. each year, and a large number of those end up clogging



1st Place Meah Dirks
Photos by Krystle Laster

rivers, streams, and landfills.

"I hope it teaches kids to be more aware of the trash they're creating and how to reuse some of it so we're not sending so much garbage to our landfills," Buchanan said.

GES Principal Wood Honored

By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter

Grenada Elementary School Red Top Principal Raleigh Wood returned to his college alma mater this fall to be inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame.

East Mississippi Community College, where Wood pitched for the baseball team from 1981 to 1983, honored Wood, along with nine other former school athletes, at a ceremony on October 12. He also received on-field recognition during halftime festivities at the homecoming football game on October 13.

School athletics run deep in the Wood family. Raleigh's brother Marcus was inducted into the EMCC Sports Hall of Fame last year, and both of his sons played football for the Grenada Chargers. Raleigh Wood IV, better known as Reiv, graduated from GHS last year after playing receiver for the Chargers, and Ryan Wood is the team's current sophomore punter.

Before he became principal at the Red Top, Raleigh Wood coached baseball at Starkville, Winona, and Grenada.

Wood said the Hall of Fame honor was a great surprise.

"When I was there playing, I never would have dreamed I'd end up in the Hall of Fame," he said. "I was just going to school, playing ball, and enjoying myself."



GES Red Top Principal Raleigh Wood (left) accepts a plaque from Dr. Randall Bradbury, interim president at East Mississippi Community College. The school inducted Wood into its Sports Hall of Fame for his achievements on the EMCC baseball team from 1981 to 1983.

AmeriCorps Member of the Month



By Gwen Woodson
AmeriCorps Director

Before joining AmeriCorps, Shemeika Johnson was always willing to serve her community. She often volunteered at local churches to help pack and distribute food for those in need during Thanksgiving and Christmas.

As a graduate of Grenada High School (2010), Holmes Community College (2012), and the University of Mississippi (2016), Johnson joined AmeriCorps not only to help children, but also to pay homage to her community.

“I’ve been working with children in some aspect all my life,” says Johnson. “I know that sometimes children lack help, love, support, or guidance. That is heartbreaking. I figured that I could step

in and make a difference. I believe children just need reassurance and to know that someone is indeed in their corner and will be there for them. I aspire to be the beacon of light that could brighten their day.”

One of the highlights of Johnson’s experience in AmeriCorps, she says, is making a difference in the lives of people in her community. “I always feel so refreshed and grateful whenever I can be of assistance to those in need,” she says. “The students I was able to help in my first year will always hold a special place in my heart. They still come up to me now and brag about how good they’re doing and tell me about all that has happened in their lives. I have been able to motivate those students, to let them know that they can and will be somebody, and to help them understand that bad behavior is not the right way to get attention. I helped some of them achieve their first grade of 100, just by implanting that ‘You Can Do It’ attitude.”

Shemeika Johnson’s joy and passion for her students’ success is evident by their classroom achievements. Shemeika has really grown while serving in the program and has turned out to be an outstanding team leader. We are so blessed to have her in AmeriCorps.

“AmeriCorps has helped me grow in ways that I didn’t think could be possible,” says Johnson. “I’ve learned patience on a whole new level, empathy, and understanding. I am thankful for the skills I have learned in finance management, time management, flexibility, and leadership. Overall, it has rounded and matured me.”

Johnson will use her education award (\$5,920) to go back to school and obtain her master’s degree in counseling, as well as to pay off student loans. “In this situation, everyone wins,” she says. “Not only am I helping to mold and change lives, but I am also working to change mine as well by furthering my education without putting myself into debt.”

For more information about the Grenada School District AmeriCorps Program, contact program director Gwen Woodson at gwoodson@grenadak12.com. For more information about AmeriCorps, visit www.americorps.gov

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GES Red Top Reading Fair



Pre-K - Kindergarten
(bottom, l to r) 1st place: Asher Henson;
2nd place: Arav Kher; (back, l to r) Honorable
Mention: Arionna Miller; 3rd place:
Abigail Foster



Pre-K - Kindergarten
1st place: Asher Henson



1st & 2nd Grade
(bottom, l to r) 1st place: C.J. Armstrong; 2nd place: Haygen Austin; 3rd
place: Madi Beth Campbell; 4th place: Jessie Williams; 5th place: Taylin
McClain; (back, l to r) Honorable Mentions: Jordan Joliff, Raina Collins,
Miles Breland, CJ Moss, Bella Winter



3rd Grade
(bottom, l to r) 1st place: Hailey Fancher; 2nd place: Charlie Harrison; 3rd place: Au-
brey Hicks; 4th place: Remington Skeen; 5th place: Keri Harris; (back, l to r) Honor-
able Mentions: Mary Ashton Surrell, Olivia Lee, and Jenna Costilow



1st & 2nd Grade
1st place: C.J. Armstrong



3rd Grade
1st place: Hailey Fancher
Photos by Martha Liberto

GES Green Top Celebrates Red Ribbon Week



GES Green Top students (front, l to r) Brayden Campbell, Ryan Williams,
Tanner Wilbourn, Harper Newcomb, (back l to r) Rylin Crosby, Savanna
King, Asia Nevitt, DaKarius Parker, Clayton Duke, and Mary Taylour Wil-
bourn celebrated Red Ribbon Week by pledging to be Tobacco Free. Red
Ribbon week was sponsored by the Mississippi Tobacco Free Coalition of
Grenada, Yalobousha and Calhoun Counties.





Ugandan Bracelet With Beautiful Touch



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This beautiful beaded bracelet is made of natural gray beads, traditionally known as "lucky seeds", colored clay that is uniquely hand shaped into beads, and volcanic beads that can be infused with your favorite oil. Included with this one-of-a-kind bracelet is a 10ml roll-on bottle of the energizing and floral limited edition Beautiful Captivating Blend. Purchasing this item will help the women of Uganda this holiday season and there is a limited supply, so get yours today. This blend helps you to embrace the beauty of essential oils through combination of Osmanthus, Lime, Bergamot, and Frankincense. Beautiful Touch makes a lovely and sweet personal aroma to use with your Uganda Aroma Bracelet daily or on special occasions. Only 4 available at Criss Office Supply.



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GES 4-5 Principals' Breakfast



Photo by Krystle Laster

Students at Grenada Elementary Green Top were honored for good or improved behavior with an invitation to have breakfast with the principals. Students selected for October include (photo top) (front, l to r) Jay Forrest, Olivia Herring, Zaydeon Whaley, Tylann Stewart, Haley Melton, Jaden Yates, Macey Gordon, (back, l to r) Principal Carol Tharpe, Michael Cotton, Aaliyah Cobbs, Garan Edwards Jr, Crystianna Noel, Jhordan Sally, Mary Grace Klink, Katie Beth Mayhan, and Assistant Principal John Daves.



Photo by Krystle Laster

(Photo bottom) (front, l to r) Haylee Carter, Layne Gillon, Addy Elliott, Mikayla Burchfield, Darion Harris, Sabrina Ruiz, Walker Pollan, (back, l to r) Principal Carol Tharpe, Shawna Burt, Joseph Yates, Waleed Salameh, Hayden Dale, Anna Shea, McKenzie Austin, Brylee Roberson, and Assistant Principal John Daves

Calendar Sponsored By						
SPAINS SUPERMARKET						
The Best Meats In Town!						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January		1 New Year's Day CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS!!! Visions in GHS Auditorium	2 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS!!! Visions in GHS Auditorium	3 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS!!! Visions in GHS Auditorium	4 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS!!! Visions in GHS Auditorium	5 Visions in GHS Auditorium Grenada Parks & Rec Basketball Game GMS Gym 7:00am - 5:00pm GHS JV/V Basketball Coffeerville ALUMNI NIGHT (Home) 4:00pm
	6 Visions in GHS Auditorium	7 *Professional Development for Teachers!!! NO Students! Visions in GHS Auditorium GHS-2019 Senior Class Meeting-GSD Armory 6:00pm - 9:00pm	8 GHS Soccer at Lafayette - 5:00pm;7:00pm GSD Students return to classes!!! Visions in GHS Auditorium Entertainers Practice 3:30pm - 5:30pm GHS JV/V Basketball Lafayette 4:00pm Grenada Parks & Rec Basketball Practice GMS Gym 5:30pm - 7:30pm Visions Practice 5:30pm - 8:30pm	9 Visions in GHS Auditorium GHS: Boy's Basketball Practice - GMS Gym 3:30pm - 5:00pm Visions Practice 4:00pm - 8:00pm Grenada Parks & Rec Basketball Practice GMS Gym 5:30pm - 7:30pm	10 Band: DSU Honor Band Visions in GHS Auditorium Entertainers Practice 3:30pm - 5:30pm Visions Practice 5:30pm - 8:30pm Baseball: 1st Pitch Banquet (Grades 7-12) - GHS Cafeteria 7:00pm	11 Band: DSU Honor Band GHS Soccer at West Point - 5:00pm;7:00pm Visions in GHS Auditorium GHS JV/V Basketball South Panola at South Panola 4:00pm Grenada Parks & Rec Basketball Practice GMS Gym 5:30pm - 7:30pm
	13 Visions in GHS Auditorium	14 Report Cards Issued Visions in GHS Auditorium Visions Practice 4:00pm - 8:00pm	15 GHS Soccer at Saltillo - 5:00pm;7:00pm Visions in GHS Auditorium Entertainers Practice 3:30pm - 5:30pm Grenada Parks & Rec Basketball Practice GMS Gym 5:30pm - 7:30pm Mississippi Safety Services Defensive Driving Course-GCTC 5:30pm - 9:30pm School Board Meeting-Central Office 6:00pm Visions Practice 6:00pm - 8:30pm	16 Visions in GHS Auditorium GHS: Science Fair - GHS Cafeteria 7:40am - 3:20pm GHS: Boy's Basketball Practice - GMS Gym 3:30pm - 5:00pm Visions Practice 4:00pm - 7:00pm Grenada Parks & Rec Basketball Practice GMS Gym 5:30pm - 7:30pm	17 Visions in GHS Auditorium Entertainers Practice 3:30pm - 5:30pm GMS: Basketball at Oxford 5:00pm Grenada Parks & Rec Basketball Practice GMS Gym 5:30pm - 7:30pm Visions Practice 6:00pm - 8:30pm	18 Visions in GHS Auditorium GHS JV/V Basketball West Point (Home) 4:00pm Grenada Parks & Rec Basketball Practice GMS Gym 5:30pm - 7:30pm
20 Visions in GHS Auditorium	21 Martin Luther King Day Band: Dr. MLK Parade (Required for High School) Muster - 3:00pm; Parade - 3:30pm HOLIDAY!!!! NJROTC Community Service at Grenada MLK Parade Visions and Entertainers Practice in GHS Auditorium TBA Grenada Parks & Rec Basketball Practice GMS Gym 5:30pm - 7:30pm	22 GHS Soccer Lafayette (Home) - 5:00pm;7:00pm Visions in GHS Auditorium Entertainers Practice 3:30pm - 5:00pm GHS JV/V Basketball Lafayette (Home) 4:00pm Visions Practice 5:00pm - 8:30pm Grenada Parks & Rec Basketball Practice GMS Gym 5:30pm - 7:30pm	23 NJROTC Middle School Visit Visions in GHS Auditorium GHS: Science Fair - GHS Cafeteria 7:40am - 3:20pm Visions Practice 4:00pm - 8:30pm Grenada Parks & Rec Basketball Practice GMS Gym 5:30pm - 7:30pm	24 Band: MSU Honor Band Visions in GHS Auditorium Visions Practice 4:00pm - 8:30pm Grenada Parks & Rec Basketball Practice GMS Gym 5:30pm - 7:30pm GHS-Varsity Football Banquet-First Baptist Church 6:00pm	25 Band: MSU Honor Band GHS Soccer Strayhorn Senior Night (Home) - 5:00pm;7:00pm Visions in GHS Auditorium GHS JV/V Basketball Saltillo at Saltillo 4:00pm Grenada Parks & Rec Basketball Practice GMS Gym 5:30pm - 7:30pm	26 Band: MSU Honor Band NJROTC Grenada Military Ball at Armory Visions Competition at Jackson Prep Grenada Parks & Rec Basketball Game GMS Gym 7:00am - 5:00pm
27 Visions in GHS Auditorium	28 Visions in GHS Auditorium Entertainers Practice 3:30pm - 6:00pm Grenada Parks & Rec Basketball Practice GMS Gym 5:30pm - 7:30pm Visions Practice 6:00pm - 8:30pm	29 Visions in GHS Auditorium Entertainers Practice 3:30pm - 6:00pm GHS V Basketball West Point at West Point 5:00pm Grenada Parks & Rec Basketball Practice GMS Gym 5:30pm - 7:30pm Visions Practice 6:00pm - 8:30pm	30 Visions in GHS Auditorium Entertainers Practice 3:30pm - 5:00pm Visions Practice 5:00pm - 7:00pm Grenada Parks & Rec Basketball Practice GMS Gym 5:30pm - 7:30pm	31 Visions in GHS Auditorium Entertainers Practice and Parent Show 3:30pm Grenada Parks & Rec Basketball Practice GMS Gym 5:30pm - 7:30pm		

GES 4-5 Honors Veterans



(back, l to r) Kate Cobb, Emily Finkley, Blakely Kirk, Braley Carnathan, Presley Williams, Jatya Bocclair, and (front) Emmory Elliott

By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter

Inclement weather drove the GES 4-5 Veteran's Day parade indoors this year. The sudden change of venue didn't dampen the enthusiasm as fourth and fifth graders paraded through the Green Top gymnasium to honor several dozen local veterans with signs, recitations, and song.

Principal Carol Tharpe welcomed veterans to the annual event with thanks for their sacrifice. "Your service has

helped to preserve our country, and it has allowed all of us to focus our lives on peaceful pursuits."

After the presentation of colors by students from GHS's NJROTC cadets, the Green Top's show choir, Pizzazz, entertained the crowd with several patriotic songs.

Next came the parade of students. They came class-by-class, bearing colorful posters and signs with messages of thanks and patriotism to veterans. Some were dressed in red, white, and blue, while others read prepared remarks.



Akeelah Bishop, Amery Bloodworth, and Mary Taylour Wilbourn



Emily Blaylock and Emerie Golliday

This was the twelfth year for the Veteran's Day event, "one of the most treasured times here at the Green Top," according to Tharpe. "It's a great way to teach our students about honoring those who've sacrificed so much for this country."

Following the presentation, veterans were invited to the library for a reception that included breakfast and the yearly highlight, a special patriotic cake made by Green Top employee Doreen Williamson.



Lani Mabry

Photos by GES 4-5 Staff

MDE Releases Fall Scores for Kindergarten Readiness



Photo by Martha Liberto

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) has released the results of the fall 2018 assessment of kindergarten readiness.

According to the fall 2018 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment results

(Photo left) GES Kindergarteners (l to r) Douglas Bailey and Arionna Miller practice their reading skills.

released, Grenada School District demonstrated an average score of 535, which is significantly above the state average of 501. Only 16 of 141 school districts showed an average score of 530 or above. Therefore, Grenada School District placed in the top 11% of school districts in the state and ranked number 13th out of 141 school districts statewide.

Members of the Grenada Board of Trustees had a vision for early child-

hood education. With their dedication to early learning and the expansion of our Pre-K classes, Grenada School District is thrilled to see the increase scores. Marjorie Hughes, President of the School Board, said, "Pre-K education has a direct impact academically on our students.

The hard work of our pre-kindergarten and kindergarten teachers and assistants is to be praised. Educating our youngest citizens is important to the future of Grenada. Education is one of the fundamental factors for economic development because students graduate and enter the workforce in Grenada prepared."

The Kindergarten Readiness Assessment evaluates early literacy skills, such as the ability to recognize letters and match letters to their sounds and a student's recognition that print flows from left to right. It is also utilized to measure how well Pre-K programs prepare four-

year-old children to be ready for kindergarten.

MDE stated, "Research from a four-year study shows that 85 percent of students at the beginning of kindergarten with a score of 530 or above on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment are on track to become proficient readers by the end of 3rd grade."

"A strong education system is vitally important to every community. The investment in prekindergarten education today has the potential to pay huge dividends through improvement of a child's school readiness and ultimate school performance, which leads to fewer grade retentions, fewer referrals to special education, and fewer high school dropouts," said Dr. David Daigneault.

See "Scores"
Continued on page 8

GMS Hosts Annual Thanksgiving Lunch for Partners



Photo by Lisa Holland

GMS hosted its annual Thanksgiving lunch for their Partners in Education. Some of the Partners attending were: (bottom l to r) Dewayne Westmoreland - BancorpSouth Bank; Terry Lane - Renasant Bank; Chris Berry - BancorpSouth Bank; Jan Walton - MSU Extension Service; (back, l to r) Becky Bloodworth - Bloodworth's Store; Gene Bell - Renasant Bank; and Kelley Smith and Julia Tartt - Criss Office Supply

College Prep - The Application Essay

So you're gathering submission materials for your college and scholarship applications. You've got a two-week vacation coming up. Why not go ahead and knock out that essay?

Not all colleges require an essay for admission, but if you plan to apply for a scholarship, be prepared to write your story.

Many students find essay-writing to be a terrifying assignment, but don't let the prospect of a little hard work make you put off this important task until the last minute. Here are some tips for how to approach a personal essay, whether you're applying for a scholarship or a prestigious university.

Getting Started...

If a committee or admissions board is seeking an essay, they will want to know more about you. Take a look at the prompt or topic and determine what exactly they want to know. Once you've carefully considered the essay topic, it's time to record your thoughts on the subject. Get creative. Decide what separates you from the rest of the pack. You're competing with a lot of students, so it's important to make your essay distinctive.

Don't think of this as a formal paper but as a statement about yourself. To help give your essay focus, think of a specific

incident, an unusual family circumstance, or a personal trait that makes you unique. What happened in your life that led to this moment?

While you think about these things, keep a pencil and paper handy. Start jotting down your thoughts. It doesn't have to be pretty. Dictate it into your phone if writing slows you down. You want to capture your own unique perspective, so let it fly. When you go back and read or listen to what you came up with, pull out your best ideas, the ones that excite you. There's your basis. Once you're going in the right direction, the rest will come surprisingly fast and easy.

Details and Structure...

You've read a good book. What did you like about it? Most likely, you rooted for the main character and enjoyed watching him or her change and grow as the story progressed from beginning to middle to end. So make yourself the hero of this story. Give your essay a logical progression, not just a string of random thoughts. First this happened, then this, and that's when I realized this. I want this, and here's what I'll do when I get it. A logical progression of rich details — show, don't tell — and specific events — especially with ups and downs — will draw a reader in and make them forget

they're reading a boring old college essay.

Voice and Words...

Don't pick the most impressive words out of the thesaurus. This isn't a term paper. Say it like you would say it. Readers want to know you — how you think, your feelings, your words and ideas. Don't make it too stiff or too formal. Just say it like you mean it. The truth will come through, and readers will be intrigued.

Even though you want to represent your true voice, clean up the little stammers and stutters that reflect a conversational voice as opposed to a confident authorial voice. Maybe you'd say this to a friend: "I kind of knew that I did want to be some kind of teacher ever since I was in, I think, the third grade, and that's when my teacher that year let me stand up and teach the class for just a couple of minutes one day." But if you want it to read well, take out some of those unnecessary words. Doesn't this read better? "I knew I wanted to be a teacher ever since third grade when my teacher invited me stand in front of the class and teach with her."

Remember also, a verb can be your friend. Sometimes all you need to straighten out a clunky sentence is the

right verb. Don't overreach, just choose the verb that expresses exactly what you mean.

Revision...

The secret to great writing is persistent revision. Nobody gets it right the first time, but after a hard eye and several drafts, your essay should read much better. But it's easy to overlook your own flaws. Show it to someone else, a parent or a friend. Let them read it, and have them identify any ideas or sentences that aren't clear or correct. Ask your favorite English teacher to read it with a red pen in hand.

A well-written essay should read like it was the simplest thing in the world to write. Every thought should land on the page with pinpoint accuracy. Start by throwing everything you have at the page, and end by taking away all but the essentials. That's how you get to the heart of the matter. Things that seemed clever in an early draft may be out of place by the time you've neaten up your essay. If it doesn't fit — sometimes even if you love it — take it out. You want a lean, mean essay that gets to the point, says what you've come to say, and leaves the reader wanting more.



Kidzeum Welcomes Grandparents

By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter

Grandparents of Grenada Elementary PreK-3 students turned out in droves on November 30 for the school's popular holiday open house event. As ever, the Kidzeum's fall exhibit season culminated with Grandparents Day, which also included a jam-packed book fair in the school gymnasium.

Each year around the holidays, the Kidzeum transforms the museum into a winter wonderland, exploring Christmas-time customs from different cultures. This year's featured country was Italy. New Kidzeum director Melanie Williams enjoyed her first year as host of these holiday traditions. "It was so much fun listening to the children share what they had learned about Italy with their grandparents," she said. "From my understanding, we had a record crowd, and we are looking forward to next year."

The Italy exhibit kicked off in early fall. Kids made their first visit to the Kidzeum and found a Venetian street scene, complete with a market, canal bridge, and gondolier. Students located Italy on a map and learned about interesting figures from Italy, including Michelangelo, Leonardo DaVinci, and Nero, the Roman emperor commonly associated with the invention of ice cream.

One of the highlights of the exhibit was a trip to the classroom kitchen, where students learned to make home-made pasta. "If I could describe this exhibit in one word, I would say joy," Williams said. "Because watching the kids' faces as they learned how to knead and roll out pasta was a complete and utter joy."

Each class at the elementary school made a second trip in late fall to the Kidzeum. They were greeted with a surprising winter sight when they entered to snowfall, thanks to a snow machine. The familiar Italian street scene had been transformed with lights, holiday decorations, and a giant Christmas tree donated by Wal-Mart.

The children learned how to say Merry Christmas in Italian — "Buon Natale!" — and tasted homemade Italian pizzelle cookies. They learned about La Befana, the Christmas witch who leaves sweets in childrens' stockings and shoes, and they adopted an Italian holiday tradition, writing letters of love and thanks to their parents, which they will place under dinner plates on Christmas Eve.

As elementary school students say arrivederci to the fall semester, they look forward to seeing what the Kidzeum staff has in store for their next surprise exhibit in January.



Vickie Sprouse and Eli West



Mary Robinson and Madison Steward



Curtis Hardy and E.J. Deputy



(back) Bill, Melinda (front) Carson, and Cambry Lynn Goff



(back) Beth Estes, (middle, l to r) Raleigh Cooper, Elaina Estes, and (front) Luke Estes

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"Boost"

Continued from page 1

One of the first booster members I ever met when I arrived was Jackie Britt, who worked in the concession stand. Her kids have long graduated, and she's in her eighties now, but guess where you'll find her on Friday nights during football season. That's right. She's still working the concession stand. What great dedication and commitment!

We see the next generation of exceptional parent leaders organizing booster programs for some of our school's sports teams.

Football mom Lori Chavis moved to Grenada from South Carolina several years ago with her family. She got involved with the Chargers football team and now leads a robust boosters group.

They work very hard to provide everything players need, from uniforms and equipment to meals.

Chavis coordinates with local businesses and churches to feed the teams before and after games. We're not talking meager portions here. From middle school to varsity, the football boosters feed five teams, often three nights a week during full season. She estimated they served 3,500 to 4,000 meals this season through the help of generous community sponsors.

The coaches will tell you that Chavis' efforts go far beyond the norm. She's like a mother to the team, providing a positive environment and a spirit of cooperation and support that feels like a home away from home.

Cheerleading coach Tammy Wilson credits two main sponsors, Amy Laster

and Melinda Little, with coordinating activities, organizing finances, and fundraising to provide uniforms, equipment, and senior gifts among other things. Cheerleading parents join the effort when loose ends need to be tied up.

Softball coach Leslie Lancaster praised her extensive corps of hard-working parents who contribute to the team's success. When Lancaster experienced health setbacks during this fall's slow-pitch season, she wasn't able to devote her typical high level of attention to field management. But plenty of softball parents and boosters came out to provide supplies, set bases, clean dugouts, and make small repairs to the field. And you can bet they were at every game, yelling the loudest from the bleachers.

This level of dedication and support not only shows visitors how much Gre-

nada cares about its school programs, it shows the students. And that may be the biggest, most intangible contribution the boosters make. It's not all about financial gifts and free labor. They're also lending moral support to students of Grenada. They encourage the kids, spread the word of their achievements, and demonstrate what an active and engaged community looks like.

These programs I mentioned are just a few of the GSD organizations with thriving booster support. There are so many more groups that deserve mention, and I'll use this space to pay them their due very soon.

Until next year, enjoy the holiday break. And thanks to all who gave us a boost this year. We appreciate your hard work, commitment, and enthusiasm more than you know.

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GMS Students of the Month



Sixth grade November Students of the Month are (front, l to r) Jatavious Lewis, Alyssa Honey, Tristin Wilson, Irie Zelinski, (back, l to r) KeAvery Reed, Alexia Strong, Alan Farmer, David Luke, Tykishen Myles, and Assistant Principal Jamie Harrison.



Seventh grade November Students of the Month are (front, l to r) Jaylan Burl, Jamison Woodson, Jared Robinson, (back l to r), Sarah Trotter, Arianna Kennedy, Maci Kent, Nadia Robinson, Lanna Tharpe, and Assistant Principal Jamie Harrison.



Eighth grade November Students of the Month are (front, l to r) Carson Little, Evan Campbell, Mackenzie Porter, Porsha Henderson, Alexis Richardson, (back, l to r) Will Brown, Javarus Bowdry, Caleb Chrestman, Jaylon Skinner, Reid Viner, and Assistant Principal Jamie Harrison.

“Scores”

Continued from page 5

Each year, kindergarten students take the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment in the fall. Grenada School District has in the past scored at or below the state average. However, with implementing Grenada Early Learning Collaborative Pre-K program, kindergarten students are now scoring an average of 30 points higher.

Grenada School District looks forward to continuing to grow the program to meet the needs of the students in Grenada, Mississippi. Grenada School District strongly believes in early childhood education. Grenada School District’s goal is for all Pre-K students to enter kindergarten at an early kindergarten level or above, quickly advancing students towards reading and reaching their dreams!

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GHS Band Finishes Successful Marching Season



The 2018 Drum majors, (l to r) Shaunna George, Ella Simmons and Samantha Rankin pose with the awards from a successful marching season.

By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter

Visitors to the Grenada High School Band Hall always remark on the seemingly endless line of competition trophies that line the shelves and baseboards. The marching band has plenty of trophies to add to their collection after a successful fall competition season.

The band developed its halftime marching show this summer and exhibited it piece-by-piece during halftime at football games. The band rolled out the show in its entirety at their annual home marching evaluation.

The Mississippi High School Activities Association hosts five regional band evaluations each fall. The non-competitive event allows bands to have their field show evaluated as they enter competition season.

At the region II event, held on Oct. 13 in Grenada at Charger Stadium, Grenada Band earned straight superiors, marking 41 years in a row the band has been judged excellent by state evaluators.

The band’s competitive season began on October 22 at the Gulf Coast Marching Band Championship at McNeese State University in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Nineteen bands from Mississippi, Texas, and Louisiana competed, and Grenada earned the title Overall Grand Champion.

The band also captured overall honors in two areas, percussion and general effect, which describes the show’s overall aesthetic appeal. In their class, the band won top honors in color guard, music, and visual presentation.

On October 27, the band returned to Louisiana for the Strawberry Marching Classic at Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond. They competed among the best bands in the Southeast, from Florida to Texas. It was the first qualifying contest for band members, who earned a spot in the finals and then turned around to perform again right out of preliminaries.

Grenada Band earned third best overall and second best in color guard. The band’s three drum majors — Shaunna George, Ella Simmons, and Samantha Rankin — earned distinction as well for their excellence.

Grenada Band’s final competition was the West Alabama Marching Classic, held in Gordo, Alabama, on November 3. Once again, they were named Overall Grand Champion. In the category breakdown, the color guard earned the Grand Champion title, and the band was cited for outstanding general effect.

At the end of each marching season, said assistant director Kim Presley, band members enjoy going back to watch videos of previous performances from the last four seasons.

“This year when we watched, we could really see the growth of the band over the last four years,” Presley said. “They’re much cleaner now. They play better, show more depth. Seeing the progress really made the seniors proud, and the underclassmen are eager to go again next year.”



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