



The Gift That Keeps Growing



Superintendent's Message

Dr. David Daigneault

Looking back on 2023, it was a tremendous year for Grenada School District. Our district earned its second A-rating from the Mississippi State Board of Education. Our academic programs are expanding, our football team went to the state championships, and our reputation for excellence and innovation is rapidly on the rise.

With success comes growth, and our district is certainly growing. One area we see promising growth that affects the entire district is our Pre-K program. Every year we're adding new classes of three- and four-year-old students, and each year our scores continue to rise.

Parents and community members are still surprised to learn they can help our Pre-K program by doing something they would do anyway this time of year — paying taxes.

How does it work? Simply make a charitable donation to our Pre-K Learning Collaborative this year, and your donation can be reimbursed in full by the state of Mississippi with a tax credit. Not a deduction ... a full credit.

What better way to invest in the community while also having a say where your tax dollars are being spent?

Our collaborative receives half of its operating budget from the state. The other half comes from local funding, tuition, and contributions. This valuable tax credit was put in place by the state legislature in 2013 as a way to encourage businesses and individuals to support the pre-K initiative in Mississippi.

Here's why Grenada's Pre-K collaborative is a worthy investment:

A Top Program in the State

The Kindergarten Readiness Assessments are administered as a fall pre-test and a spring post-test to both our Pre-K and Kindergarten classes. The state benchmark score for mastery of knowledge and skills in early literacy and math is a 498. This ensures that students are on track to meet reading expectations in third grade.

Over 95% of the Pre-K students at Grenada Elementary School scored 498 or higher on the spring readiness assessment. The Grenada Early Learning Collaborative was first in the state for the number of students scoring above 498 and average scale score for the spring, and we were second in the state for growth.

Top-Rated Teachers

The Mississippi Department of Education audits and monitors the program each year and issues a report. We received a 100 audit score, and a 100 Rate of Readiness score, which measures assessment scores, student growth, and teacher performance.

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Grenada Plays for State

How Charger Football's historic season unfolded



Photo by Ezzard Beane

Grenada Charger fans turned out in record numbers to support the team on their first trip to the state championship tournament on Dec. 1. Coach Michael Fair (bottom, center) said, "With the crowd that showed up [Friday] night, this town can support a state champion."

By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter

After the play clock stopped on the Grenada Chargers' first-ever appearance at the state football championships on Dec. 1, first-year head coach Michael Fair took his team aside, and under the lights of Vaught-Hemingway Stadium at the University of Mississippi, he told them three things.

The players had just completed a monumental season. Their 15-game run included three playoff victories against formidable opponents, ending with a

heartbreaking loss to the 6A North-Half victors West Jones for the title of 6A State Champs. It was the most grueling four quarters of football these players had seen all season. Most were muddy head-to-toe, and with tears in their eyes, they listened to the coach who'd led them there.

The first thing Fair told them: "Life is about how you respond to adversity. It defines what kind of man you are. Times like this, that's when your character is revealed."

It's a lesson the team had been learning all season. Their first loss came early,

only their second game. Old rivals and neighbors Winona slipped by with a 32-26 victory at home. "That could have broken a lot of teams, but we bounced back the next week and beat a good Oxford team," Fair said.

The Chargers' second loss came at home against a stout Bartlett, Tenn. team, but they rebounded the next week and won a dogfight at home against DeSoto Central.

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GHS 2023 Homecoming Queen Crowned



Photo by Ezzard Beane

Grenada School District celebrated Homecoming Week Oct. 23-27 with events across all schools. The culmination of the week was the crowning of the homecoming queen at a ceremony before the football game on Fri., Oct. 27, at Charger Stadium. Pictured are (back row, l to r) GHS principal Emily Tindall, Javier Booker, escorting the 2023 Homecoming Queen Jayla Myers, Superintendent Dr. David Daigneault, 2022 Homecoming Queen Nyterika Burns, and children of the court (front, l to r) Rylan Surrell and Kenzie-Lynn Harville.

“Gift”

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Long-Term Benefits

Our Pre-K’s marked success is paying dividends in the long-term as assessment scores continue to climb across the district. Since we started our program in 2015, our first classes of Pre-K students have shown dramatic increases in assessment scores. This year our fifth-grade science students scored the second highest in the state. In math, our third graders ranked fourth highest in the state, fourth graders ranked third, and fifth graders ranked ninth. In English, our third graders were seventh highest in the state, and our fifth graders were 12th highest.

Personal Growth

Our teachers have noticed that early education in our Pre-K program improves not only academic performance but student behavior and classroom efficiency. The children who have gone through our program, some starting as young as three years old, are more poised, confident, comfortable, and eager to try new things. They know how to take direction from adults and how to stay on task. Most of them already know how to read and do math ... in kindergarten! That head start in learning will be an advantage for them each and every year as they advance through the grades.

The experiment is working! If you’re interested in strengthening our program and would like to donate your state taxes to our collaborative, here’s what to do in four easy steps:

Call the school district’s business manager, Rodney Murphy (662-226-1606), to see if the collaborative has reached its cap. All 37 of the state’s collaboratives are eligible to receive a combined tax credit total of \$20 million in one year, a sum which has yet to be reached since the law has been in effect.

Write your check to Grenada School District, earmarked for Learning Blocks.

The district will notify the Mississippi Department of Education of your contribution, and they’ll send you a certificate that proves you have contributed to Grenada’s state-approved collaborative. This certificate is used for tax filing.

When filing your state income tax return, have your accountant indicate your contribution using form 80-401. If you prepare your own taxes, download the form on the MS Department of Revenue’s website.

The credit will be taken off your tax liability before your monthly withholdings, so you’ll still qualify for a refund if you’ve overpaid. Contributions are eligible for a credit up to \$1 million per taxpayer. Any unused reimbursement can be carried forward three years of tax credits.

Remember, contributions must be made during the calendar year for which a tax return is filed, so plan to invest in Grenada’s pre-K program this year to apply your credit when filing your 2023 taxes.

This year, consider making an investment in the future of our community. It’s the gift that keeps growing!

Grenada School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, veteran status, or other characteristics protected by law in any of its policies, practices, procedures or program operation. Grenada School District is an equal opportunity employer. For inquiries regarding this policy on discrimination contact:
Title IX Coordinator,
Dr. Tina Herrington; ADA/504 Coordinator, Dr. Lyle Williams;
Grenada School District,
253 S. Main, Grenada, MS 38901;
662-226-1606

GCTC Holds Annual Advisory Meeting



Photo by Meg Newcomb

Grenada Career and Technical Center held their Advisory Committee meeting at the school on Nov. 2. The committee is made up of members of the local business industry who advise educators and students on skills and knowledge needed in today’s careers, which helps shape the future of the career tech program. Among those in attendance, GCTC Educator Prep instructor Michelle Downs met with Grenada Elementary teacher and committee member Tracy Armstrong.

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Smoker? You’re 40% More Likely to Develop Diabetes

“Diabetes is a disease with serious health consequences, but it is also controllable and preventable. About 1 in 7 Mississippians are living with diabetes, placing the state in the top five nationally for diabetes rates,” said Jayda Lee, the Director of the Diabetes Prevention and Control Program at the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH).

Program areas across MSDH have teamed up this November to spread awareness and education about type two diabetes.

According to Amy Winter, Director of the Office of Tobacco Control at MSDH, “If you smoke,

the truth is that you are 30 to 40 percent more likely to develop type two diabetes than someone who doesn’t.” Smoking not only increases your risk of developing diabetes, it impacts how well your insulin works. The CDC states that chemicals found in cigarettes cause cellular inflammation which results in less response to insulin. Diabetics who smoke require higher doses of insulin to manage their blood sugar levels.

“Quitting smoking is always a healthy choice,” said Sue Mashburne, Director of Grenada, Yalobusha, and Calhoun Counties, and

making lifestyle modifications.

“We offer specific one on one support, we want to see you succeed in your quit journey. Call 1-800-QUIT-NOW and let’s get started.

And, if you want support for diabetes the Health Department can help too,” said Sue Mashburne. For information about the dangers of cigarettes visit www.healthmys.com/tobacco For help with quitting visit www.quitlinems.com, or call the Mississippi Tobacco Quitline at 1-800-QUIT-NOW.

To learn more about the National Diabetes Prevention and Control programs visit www.healthmys.com.

NASA Engineer Visits GSD



Photo by Pam Briscoe

Mark Cavanaugh, an aerospace engineer with NASA, shows third-grade students at Grenada Elementary the new Orion spacecraft to be used in future space missions. Students learned about Cavanaugh’s involvement in a multi-national effort to establish a working colony on the moon.

By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter

Mark Cavanaugh, an aerospace engineer working on the Artemis program at NASA, spent three days this fall at Grenada School District talking to students about the space program’s latest mission.

Cavanaugh met with students in grades 3-12 to discuss the massive, multi-national alliance’s plan to build new and improved transportation methods to get astronauts to and from the moon, “this time to stay.”

Cavanaugh said the goal of Artemis is to establish a colony on the lunar surface much like the International Space Station (ISS) has retained crews that live and work in space year-round for the past 20 years. “The goal is to build that capability and expand out to the moon, and then on to Mars,” he said.

The first Artemis mission launched on Nov. 16, 2022. The unmanned Orion spacecraft spent 25 days orbiting Earth and the moon. During visits to GES’s Red and Green Top schools, Cavanaugh discussed the mission with students in third through fifth grade and tied it to their current lessons in heat transfer and phases of the moon.

“Heat transfer is a whole big part of space travel,” Cavanaugh said. “It’s a very stressing environment ... so there’s a lot to consider there. There’s a lot of work that goes into designing something, and it’s all using the principles that they’re starting to learn now.”

At the high school, Cavanaugh spoke with students in the Project Lead the Way Engineering classes, members of the Pure Imagination robotics team, and 10th grade students studying technical writing. He gave a more in-depth overview of the Artemis Project and discussed career options in aviation and aerospace.

Cavanaugh, who grew up in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, said his interest in aviation was inspired by his uncle, Michael Cavanaugh, an aerospace engineer who lives in Grenada with his wife Tammie, director of GSD’s Balloon Quest museum, and son Michael, a junior at GHS.

Cavanaugh studied aerospace engineering with a specialty in space at Penn State before working on NASA projects at Boeing for four years. He’s been working with NASA at the Johnson Space Center in Houston for seven years.

“I was very impressed with [Grenada’s] facilities and the forward-thinking, exposing the kids to engineering and the STEM activities so early,” said Cavanaugh after his visit. “I didn’t have anything like this when I was in elementary school and high school. [I’m] very impressed with the curriculum and the way that [GSD] has really gone after the subjects that are very important to modern society — computer science and engineering and aerospace.”

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FOR *Spring* 2024**
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KAYLA MORMAN
GRENADE HIGH SCHOOL

New Field Sponsors Recognized

Charger Stadium on the Grenada High School campus received a major uplift this fall with a new artificial turf field. A newly resurfaced track and LED game lights were unveiled late in the season as well.

At a ceremony before the state 6A football play-off game on November 10, district administrators presented formal thanks to the businesses that made the new field renovations possible.

“The field has been a blessing to our school and to our kids,” said Athletic Director Dr. Lyle Williams. “Now our teams and organizations won’t lose practice time due to rain, and weather won’t be as critical to the status of games.”

Three levels of sponsorship were offered at the beginning of football season, and many local businesses stepped up to offer support.

“We extend our appreciation to our football field sponsors, whose commitment to our school and community has been nothing short of exceptional,” said Williams. “Their dedication has enhanced the athletic experience for our students and community, and their contributions go far beyond the boundaries of this field.”

Sponsors recognized at the pre-game ceremony included:

Platinum Level sponsors include Kirk Auto Group and the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

The Super Charger Level sponsors include Sonic, Modine, Gateway Tire & Service, Harrell’s Metal Works, Spain’s Supermarket, and No Way Jose.

Charger Level sponsors include Horan Family Dental, Renasant Bank, R&K Excavation, and TenCate Grass.



Renasant Bank: Gene Bell, Kim Hawkins, Lexi Sultan, Fran Harper, Olivia Harper, Superintendent Dr. David Daigneault, and Athletic Director Dr. Lyle Williams



No Way Jose: Charly, Landon, Holly, Ada, and Pablo Martinez, Superintendent Dr. David Daigneault, and Athletic Director Dr. Lyle Williams



Kirk Auto Group: Cannon and Ginny Kirk, Superintendent Dr. David Daigneault, and Athletic Director Dr. Lyle Williams



UMMC: Sara Frances Horan, Scott Whittemore, Dodie McElmurray, Superintendent Dr. David Daigneault, and Athletic Director Dr. Lyle Williams



Modine: Ernesto Ruvalcaba, Teresa Ross, Ed Mulwyk Jay Burleson, Superintendent Dr. David Daigneault, and Athletic Director Dr. Lyle Williams



Spains: Johnny and Louise Skinner, Kayla and Everett Golding, Superintendent Dr. David Daigneault, and Athletic Director Dr. Lyle Williams

2023 GHS Homecoming Court



Photo by Ezzard Beane

The 2023 GHS Homecoming Court, as selected by students at the high school, included (back, l to r) Madison Alexander, freshman; Shakira Monae Alexander, freshman, Alexa Carollo, sophomore; Kathryn Grace Cobb, sophomore, Emmyjah Forbes, junior; Naima Reed, junior; Kelsi Makaia Forest, senior; Arrion Na'tae Hancock, senior; Akera Leasia Jones, senior; Nadia Reed, senior; 2023 Homecoming Queen Jayla Myers, senior; Kimaria Nevaugh Reed, senior; Haylee Elizabeth Jones, senior; Kylee Hope Hudgens, senior; Shaniyah Miers, junior; Leah Briscoe, junior; Ty'Lecia Symone Lemon, sophomore; Madison Grace Woodard, sophomore; Emma Kate Pitcock, freshman; Brooklyn Hardwick, freshman; (front) Children of the Court Rylan Surrell and Kenzie-Lynn Harville. The crowning of the queen took place at a pre-game ceremony on Oct. 27.

“State”

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The Grenada Chargers made their first trip to the state championship game to play the 6A South-South champs, the West Jones Mustangs, on Dec. 1 at Vaught-Hemingway Stadium on the University of Mississippi campus. The Chargers held strong until the Mustangs pulled away in the second half and won 23-3. Head coach Michael Fair said the players, the coaching staff, the school, and the community all played a role in the Chargers’ historic season. “We feel like we’re on the front end of a really successful era in Grenada football,” Fair said.

The season’s third loss, again at home, was the final game of the regular season. South Panola won in a game that would decide the top team in the district. “We put a lot on that game,” Fair recalled. “We felt like we had a good plan, went out there, and got beat handily. We had zero momentum going into the playoffs because we lost the last game of the season.”

But the team bounced back in a way that revealed their true character. “There was no panic,” said Fair. “It was just, *Here’s what we messed up on. We had more to do with the outcome than our opponent. Let’s fix us, and let’s go to work.* After that, it was different. There was something in their eyes during that playoff run that was pretty special. You knew they were going to state no matter what it took.”

The second thing Fair told his players out on the football field that night, with the West Jones team celebrating their championship in the background: “When anyone ever asks me how we got here, I’m always going to say, ‘It was the class of 2024.’”

Fair believes they wouldn’t have made it to the state championships without the twenty-plus senior players who adopted his philosophy.

This year’s senior class was led by a slate of standouts all over the field. Jekerious Williams, the speedy and elusive cornerback, proved to be versatile in various position groups and made astounding plays almost every week. Preston Smith, the all-star tackle, showed his younger O-linemen how to keep fighting in the trenches week after week. Matrevion Austin, one of the smaller defensive players, always turned up precisely when and where he was needed. Aaron Travis, the imposing defensive lineman, already committed to D-1 college football, was relegated to the sideline on crutches for the championship game but wasn’t moping, just cheering on his teammates. Charlie Fair, the understated, cool-under-pressure quarterback and son of Fair, knew his father’s playbook and helped galvanize the team under the new playing style.

“They were so loyal and hard-working, and they’ve been great leaders for our program,” Fair said. “They bought into what we were doing and took this

program to places a lot of folks didn’t think we could reach.”

If no one else could have predicted the Chargers would end up at the state championship game, the players believed it themselves. All season, they reminded each other of the goal and took joy in proving their doubters wrong.

Each week as the team racked up convincing wins, the bleachers were a little more crowded with enthusiastic students and community members, especially at the away games.

The day after Thanksgiving, when the Chargers met South Panola for a rematch to clinch the North-Half division, the crowd of Grenada supporters that descended on Batesville was as grand as any home game. Students had been out of school all week, but the band, cheerleaders, and NJROTC all donned their uniforms and came out to rally the team.

“I’m proud of our boys and what they were able to accomplish on those Friday nights, but I’m just as proud of this community,” Fair said. “I feel like people realize we can win at a high level. The atmosphere these last couple of weeks has been unbelievable — first at North-Half in Batesville and then in Oxford at the state championship. I’ve never seen anything like it.”

Friday night at Vaught-Hemingway saw the largest Charger crowd of the season and perhaps in history. A sea of white-clad supporters — the football boosters urged fans to wear white in a show of unified support for the Chargers — filled the visitor’s side of the college stadium and roared their support.

Fair said he and his coaches had prepared his players throughout the week leading up to the championship game. “It’s an unbelievable experience,” he said. “We told them, if you go out there in pregame and feed off that crowd, you could be worn out before the game even starts. We needed our kids to manage those emotions. But we also wanted them to soak it in because the majority of kids that play this sport will never experience what our kids were able to experience: a huge stadium with a whole town and community behind their back, an SEC announcer calling our kids’ names against a good opponent. That’s pretty good stuff for a high school kid.”

The hard-fought game was tied at 3



Photos by Ezzard Beane

Kicker Michael Cavanaugh kicked a field goal to earn the Chargers their three points versus the Mustangs of West Jones.

by halftime but got away from Grenada in the third quarter as West Jones’ elite defense thwarted the Chargers’ scrappy offense. The final score was 23-3, but Chargers fought for every down until the bitter end.

After the game, the third thing Fair told his players was this: “You young guys, I hope you got a good taste of this. I hope you heard them playing ‘We Are the Champions’ and saw them giving that big gold ball to another team across the field. And I hope it motivates you to get back here.”

Despite so many good senior players leaving after this year, the team will retain plenty of top talent, all itching to go back to state. “The 2024 season starts Monday,” Fair said. “And we may be disappointed right now, but when I look at that crowd that came out to support us, I want to tell them, *Hang in there. It’s coming.*”

In addition to a resilient team of football players and a top-shelf coaching staff — “some of the best men I’ve ever worked with” — Fair credits the Char-

gers’ successful season to a perfect storm of support from the school and community.

“We feel like we’re on the front end of a really successful era in Grenada football, and in my experience, several factors go into that,” he said. “You’ve got to have a group of players that are willing to sacrifice and work hard and that have talent. That’s here. You’ve got to have administration and teachers that support athletics and football and hold these guys to a high standard in the classroom. That’s here. And you’ve gotta have community support. That’s evident.”

Fair added that the support of the student body, including other extracurricular groups and sports, was exceptional. “Head coaches

in other sports are without several of their players because this football season has run long,” he said. “Every one of those coaches are following this football program and supporting them like you wouldn’t believe, even when, selfishly, they could be pulling against us so they could get their kids back. But that’s not what this place is about, and that’s not the type of people we have here.”

Fair, who has coached successful football programs in Lafayette, Senatobia, and Greenwood, said that everywhere he has worked, when the football team does well, you see it in the hallways of the school. “Football and all the other extracurricular activities and our academic success — it’s all woven together. It brings a spotlight to what we have here.”

The coach acknowledges that expectations for next season will be higher following Grenada’s historic season. “I’m okay with that,” Fair said. “We all need to be in a place where we’re expected to be successful.”

GCTC Classes Tour Northwest



Photo by Meg Newcomb

Grenada Career and Technical Center classes toured Northwest Community College on Nov. 4. Students learned about the school’s programs, athletics, student body, and admission requirements. Among the students who toured the campus were (l to r) Terrell Young, Ryan Williams, Cade Barton, Cadin Windham, Cooper Tipton, Walker Pollan, and Fisher Jackson.

Full STEAM at GES Red Top



First graders (left, l to r) Journee Huggins, Shzyre’A Donley, and (right) Mason Mersereau build structures using geometric shapes in the 21st Century’s after-school STEAM class at Grenada Elementary’s Red Top building.

Most afternoons during the week at Grenada Elementary’s Red Top, school doesn’t end at the 2:40 bell. Students in Pre-K through third grade can sign up to participate in after-school skills and tutoring classes.

The extended school days are made possible by a grant from the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Center. The 21st Century classes are outside the norm of regular school day activities. Teachers use hands-on

activities, games, and arts and crafts to enhance classroom lessons and spark imaginations.

One subject that offers classes in skills and tutoring includes STEAM, taught by Melanie Harlow and Melanie Williams.

STEAM — or Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics — introduces elementary students to science concepts and expands on classroom lessons. It’s a good way for students to broaden their knowledge in a more

casual and playful environment.

Harlow teaches first-grade STEAM students on Wednesdays. After a snack and a romp on the playground to burn off some after-school energy, the group engages in projects that often include building and brain-teasing.

Harlow said her students recently learned what engineers do, and they studied how to plan and build a structure. They used Brainometry puzzles and MagnaTiles to brush up on their geometric shapes. Students learned to distinguish between cubes/squares and triangles/pyramids. They were asked to build a cube from squares and then combined triangle and squares to build a house.

“All in all, it’s loud, it’s fun, and it’s creative,” said Harlow. “STEAM for first graders is a means of tapping into their critical-thinking skills while giving them the opportunity to explore in a hands-on environment.”

Harlow, who is also a counselor at the Red Top, is certified in science and has taught high school chemistry, biology, and anatomy and physiology. She uses those skills to tutor second- and third-grade students on Thursdays. “We talk a lot about the scientific method and use it in experiments,” she said.

On Mondays, Melanie Williams hosts a dozen second and third graders at the Kidzeum, where she serves as director during the normal school day.

Williams said that students who take

the 21st Century STEAM class dive deeper into lessons they experience through rotating exhibits at the Kidzeum — especially the KidzTech room. Here students learn coding and robotics, interactive building with Legos, and creative media.

At the end of the semester, Williams’ students were using Legos to build Christmas objects that represent other cultures. Next semester, they’ll be working with robots and designing stop-motion videos.

“We do projects that go along with what we learned in the Kidzeum, like learning about electrical circuits,” Williams said. “We’re always developing projects that are fun and that go along with our science, math, and reading standards.”

In addition to STEAM, the Red Top offers after-school 21st Century classes in kinesthetics exercise, book club, and music. Students may also receive tutoring in math and reading.

Various classes are held after school until 5:15 on Monday through Thursday during the fall and spring sessions. Summer session are held from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Monday through Friday during the month of June.

Parents of new students who would be interested in signing up for 21st Century classes should contact the GES Red Top office at 662-226-8900.

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Grandparent’s Day at Kidzeum

Grenada Elementary’s PreK-3 and the Kidzeum rang in the season with the annual Grandparents’ Day festivities at the Red Top Nov. 29 through Dec. 1.

Grandparents of children in all grades were invited to tour the Kidzeum, where students have been learning the holiday traditions of Italy.

Pre-K students welcomed their grandparents on Wednesday. “They were able to visit with students, enjoy cookies in the Kidzeum, and receive gifts,” said Melanie Williams, director of the Kidzeum.

Thursday and Friday was divided among the kindergarten through third grade students and their grandparents. Photo booths were set up, and families shopped together at the seasonal school book fair.

“Grandparents were treated to a tour of Italy in the Kidzeum, and received sweet treats from La Befana, the friendly witch who brings presents to good children,” Williams said.

Williams called the event “a great success” with over 1,000 grandparents visiting the school.



Noah Purvis with Rhonda Thorn



Tara & John Smith with Carter Crutcher

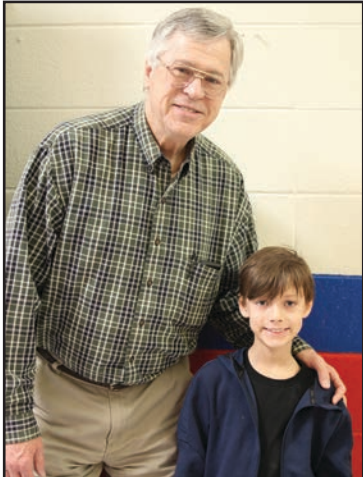


Marilyn Grantham, Tisha Frazier, Leigh & Greg Franklin with Jaxson Franklin

Photos by Martha Liberto



Joyce & Thomas Sykes with Logan Harris



Mike Fox with Michael Fox



Bobbie Campbell with Rhyleigh Campbell



Angela McCormick & Isabella Wilson



Bobbie Frank Tidwell & Asher Tidwell



Dena & Ronnie Rainey with Liam Williams



Harold & Carol Chandler with Jessie Smallwood



Fran Harper with Martha Martin



Jerome & Martha Davis with Tylen Nash

“NASA”

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Cavanaugh’s work with Artemis has focused on the thermal controls of the spacecraft and integrating systems among his European counterparts. “It’s neat to work with international partners and see the different ways that different engineers do things ... and how the cultures of each country influence their approach to things,” he said. “That’s the key to this

whole Artemis architecture working. We as humanity want to go do this. It’s not just the United States. We’re leading the charge, but we’re all going together.”

Cavanaugh said the program’s first manned mission to the moon of this century is scheduled to launch late next year.



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Green Top Cheer at Home for the Holidays



Grenada Elementary 4-5 student Lane Dees visits with Santa Claus (aka James Tharpe) at the school's annual Home for the Holidays event, held this year on Nov. 30. Students and their families visited classrooms made up to embody holiday stories as community volunteers read.

Grenada Elementary 4-5 hosted its third-annual Home for the Holidays Family Literacy Event on Thursday, November 30, at 5:30 p.m. Eighty students and family members signed up to enjoy a night filled with holiday stories in multiple genres led by English-Language Arts teachers and various community leaders. According to Kasey Lott, interim principal at the Green Top, 25 community members shared their time and expertise to enhance the student experience. Vol-

unteers served as room sponsors, readers, and decorators who helped transform everyday classrooms into imaginative landscapes based on the featured book. "This is such a special event for family members, children and the community to come together over a love of reading," Lott said. "It helps promote literacy with our students and brings the holiday spirit in strong." Students and their family members were organized into groups and then rotated among rooms to hear Christmas

stories read aloud by community volunteers. This year's rooms and readers included:

- GSD Superintendent Dr. David Daigneault read *The Cajun Night Before Christmas* in a room sponsored by the Elizabeth Jones Library and Lois Gaskin.
- GSD Board of Trustees member Arlene Conley read *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* by Dr. Seuss in a room sponsored by New Saint Peter #5, Order of Eastern Star, Prince Hall Affiliation.
- Emily Noble of the Mississippi Writing/Thinking Institute read *The Little Drummer Boy* by Bernadette Watts in a room sponsored by Outdoor Solutions with special music from Kayla Wilkey and Beau Vance.
- Eric Williamson, retired USN Command Master Chief and current Director of the Grenada County Building and Planning Department, read *Christmas From Heaven: The True Story of the Berlin Candy Bomber* by Tom Brokaw, in a room sponsored by Paula McCaulla with

Daughters of the American Revolution.

- Adam Prestridge, *Grenada Star* publisher, read *Snowflake Bentley* by Jacqueline Briggs Martin in a room sponsored by GES 2nd and 3rd grade ELA.
- Will Goff read *The Carpenter's Gift* by David Rubel in a room sponsored by the Christmas in April organization.
- Artist and local conservationist Robin Whitfield read *The Christmas Owl* by Ellen Kalish and Gideon Sterer in a room sponsored by Friends of Chakchiuma Swamp.
- Chris Collins of Custom Concepts and Justin Kyle of Flawless Whipz read *The 12 Sleighs of Christmas* by Sherri Duskey Rinker in a room they sponsored.

At the end of the evening, participants enjoyed holiday-themed refreshments in the library and took home a gift bag filled with books and ornaments.

GSD Parent Resource Center

423 S. LINE STREET • 662-227-3370
ADULT EDUCATION CENTER/ ROOM 10

HOURS: Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 and 2:00 - 5:00 p.m
Friday: 8:00a.m. - 12:00p.m.

Free
computer
access
for school
related
items

FREE

Free
printing
for school
related
items

Free
ACT
Practice
test

Free
financial
literacy
help

Free
FAFSA
application
and help

Leadership Grenada Tours GSD



Photo by Michael Sanford

The Grenada Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Grenada group toured the campuses of Grenada School District, including a stop at Balloon Quest. Members who stopped to see the district museum included (l to r) Davis Willis, Chris Berry, Lacy Lane, Syrena Johnson, Regina Givens, Mariah Mister, Anthony Williams, Jay Burleson, Alexa Gavin, Raven Tyler, and Jennifer Williams.

