



# Gehmans Mennonite School

Newsletter – December 8, 2016

Volume XXIV #5



This is a very joyous time of year. With all the many activities and events taking place due to Thanksgiving and Christmas, it makes me very thankful and I am blessed to be reminded of the ‘unspeakable gift of God’. (2 Cor. 9:15)

Sometimes I wish I could be told the Christmas Story for the first time as an adult and be amazed at the wonder of it all. The Story is so familiar to us all that we are in danger of losing sight of the miracle of Jesus birth and how significant this event is to our salvation.

As we go through this time of year, may it not just be the Christmas Story, but may it take on a new meaning of freshness that makes you awestruck with wonder at the birth of our Savior. Merry Christmas!

## Christmas Program

Our annual school Christmas Program will be held on Friday, December 16, at the Terre Hill Mennonite High School, located south of Bowmansville at the intersection of Rt. 625 and Union Grove Rd. The program will begin at **7:00 pm** with congregational singing. You are encouraged to invite friends, neighbors, relatives, or anyone you want to come and enjoy the program with you.

**Parents with K-2<sup>nd</sup> students:** Please bring your child(ren) to the posted designated rooms at **6:50 p.m.** If you arrive early for good seating options, please keep your child(ren) with you until 6:50 and then bring them to their designated room. Remember to save a seat for them as they will be joining you when their part is finished. There will be seats reserved for grades 3-8.

We ask that all students dress neatly *in accordance with the school code*. **Boys should wear dress shirts that are white or light color with dark pants. Girls need to remember the dress code on slits in skirts and wear modest apparel.**

An offering will be received to support the operating expenses of GMS. If you would like a receipt for tax deductible purposes, you may write a check made payable to the school.



## Exterior Renovation Project

We are planning an exterior renovation project to take place during the summer months of 2017, when school is not in session. While the exact colors and finishing details are not yet complete, a depiction of what the finished project will look like is attached to this newsletter.

The planned exterior renovation is needed due to the condition of the stucco that is on the block structure of the building. The current stucco finish is showing its age through many cracks and by coming loose from the block at various places. This renovation project will also involve new replacement windows in the classrooms, insulating the walls through core filling the block, upgrading the porch structure, and replacing a set of exterior doors. Many of the current windows are inoperable and not well sealed due to their age and condition. All of these improvements will be beneficial to the school through reduced energy costs and less exterior maintenance. The budget for this entire project is set at \$150,000.

As we enter the season of giving, I would encourage you to remember this project as well as the other donation needs of the school.

## Serve-A-Thon Results

We are blessed with the results of this year's Serve-A-Thon. Our total raised this year was \$31,291! Since we surpassed our all-school goal, the students will be going to Camp Calvary in the beginning of the coming week. Grades 2-4 will be going on Monday afternoon, Dec. 12. Then on afternoon of Tuesday, Dec. 13, grades 5-8 will be going to Camp Calvary, while Kindergarten & 1<sup>st</sup> has a fun day here that afternoon. One of the activities at Camp Calvary is rock wall climbing, the girls are expected to wear pants or modest shorts underneath their skirts if they want to participate in this activity. School approved culottes will also be acceptable.

We will then be going to the GAIN warehouse in Mt. Joy on Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2017. *I still have room for more volunteers to go along to GAIN.*

GOD is  
SO GOOD!

## Christmas Project Reminder

Orphan Resources International (ORI) supports over 45 orphanages in Guatemala. The goal of ORI is to continue to supply resources to the orphanages of Guatemala and change the future of the Guatemalan children. For our annual Christmas project, we are collecting NEW socks for the boys and girls in the orphanages supported by ORI. They are in need of all sizes of sock for children that would be in grades K – 8th. Please send your donations to the office by Monday, Dec. 19. We will then take all the socks donated to the ORI warehouse in Ephrata.



## Box Tops for Education



Many of you collect box tops and send them in to school, thank-you very much for doing this and *please keep on*. Karen Wanner, our Art teacher, takes care of processing them and the funds received go towards the art program. It may seem that your few are not worthwhile, but everyone's 'few' add up to a LOT!



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



<b>Dec. 12</b>	Grade 2 – 4 Camp Calvary
<b>Dec. 13</b>	Grade 5 – 8 Camp Calvary, KG & 1 <sup>st</sup> Fun Afternoon
<b>Dec. 14</b>	Free Hot Lunch
<b>Dec. 16</b>	1:00 Dismissal – Christmas Program 7:00 PM
<b>Dec. 22</b>	1:00 Dismissal – Christmas Vacation
<b>Jan. 3, 2017</b>	School Resumes
<b>Jan. 11</b>	8:45 Geography Bee
<b>Jan. 12</b>	End of Second Quarter
<b>Jan. 13</b>	11:30 Farm Show Dismissal
<b>Jan. 16</b>	No School – Snow Day???
<b>Jan. 26</b>	Fundraiser Hot Lunch – Parents Invited
<b>Jan. 30</b>	PTF – Spelling Bee 7:00 PM

## **Kindergarten Registration**

If you have a preschooler who will be 5 years old by Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> and you have interest in enrollment, please submit the form at the end of this newsletter to the office by Friday, January 13, 2017. We will set up a schedule for readiness testing that is to be done March 6-10, 2017. Also, if you have friends that have children that fall into this category, please inform them of our school.

### **Kindergarten Registration**

If you are considering enrollment of your child into Kindergarten for the 2017-2018 school year, please complete this form and return it to GMS no later than **January 13<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you.

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Child's Full Name (First, Middle, Last)

Birth date



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Parent's Names

Signature

