



# Gehmans Mennonite School

Newsletter – December 5, 2017

Volume XXV #4

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 15, at the Terre Hill Mennonite High School, 1416 Union Grove Rd, Terre Hill. 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.

## Operating Fund Status

As we enter the season of giving, I would encourage you to remember the needs of the school. Below is information on the different categories of needs. We are extremely grateful for every donation to the school!

Please continue to pray about the needs of the school, promote GMS to others, and remember the school in your giving, especially year end donations. Thank you!

	Income to Date	Annual Budget	Still Needed
Church Offerings	\$2,926	\$17,500	\$14,574
Donations-Business	\$2,000	\$12,000	\$10,000
Donations-Patrons	\$15,454	\$41,000	\$25,546
Donations-Grandparents	\$5,050	\$13,000	\$7,950
Fundraisers	\$28,777	\$54,000	\$25,223
Foundation Donations	\$2,500	\$7,000	\$4,500
Other Donations	\$1,000	\$7,000	\$6,000
Special Education Fund	\$11,120	\$22,000	\$10,880
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$68,827</b>	<b>\$173,500</b>	<b>\$104,673</b>

### **Position Opening**

Lisa Martin, our secretary who is in her 11<sup>th</sup> year of doing a great job, has informed us that she plans not to return at the ending of this school year. We are very grateful for the years of service that Lisa has invested here!

We are receiving applications for consideration for this position. This is a full-time position with 'office' duties, including payroll, ordering, record-keeping, etc.



### **Serve-A-Thon Results**

We are blessed with the results of this year's Serve-A-Thon. Our total raised this year was \$32,729.50! Since we passed 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. 11. Then on afternoon of Tuesday, Dec. 12, 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. 30, 2018. *I still have room for more volunteers to go along to GAIN.*

### **Annual Christmas Project**

The Voice of the Martyrs (VOM) is a nonprofit, interdenominational Christian mission's organization dedicated to serving the persecuted family worldwide through practical and spiritual assistance.

For our annual Christmas project, we are collecting money to sponsor Christmas Care Packs through VOM. The packs will be distributed throughout the 68 hostile and restricted countries where VOM works. \$30 sponsors 1 Christmas Care pack. ([www.christmascare.com](http://www.christmascare.com))

Please send your donations marked for this project to the office by Tuesday, Dec. 19. Checks can be made out to the school. See the flyer or their website for more information.



### **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!

### **Sycamore Education**

As a reminder, you can check your child(ren) current grades online anytime you would so desire. This is an excellent way to keep tabs on your student's academic performance. Towards the beginning of the school year, you should have received an email with login information. If you didn't receive it, or are not able to log in, please let me know.

### **Geography Bee**

On our school calendar, we failed to put the date for our annual Geography Bee. This event will be held on Wednesday morning, Jan. 10, 2018 at 8:45 A.M.



## 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 12, 2018. We will set up a schedule for readiness testing that is to be done March 5-9, 2018. 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 12<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

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

Birth date



Parent's Names

Signature



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>Dec. 11</b>	Grade 2 – 4 Camp Calvary
<b>Dec. 12</b>	Grade 5 – 8 Camp Calvary, KG & 1 <sup>st</sup> Fun Afternoon
<b>Dec. 12</b>	Mom's Prayer Group
<b>Dec. 14</b>	Fundraiser Hot Lunch
<b>Dec. 15</b>	1:00 Dismissal – Christmas Program 7:00 PM
<b>Dec. 22</b>	1:00 Dismissal – Christmas Vacation
<b>Jan. 2, 2018</b>	School Resumes
<b>Jan. 10</b>	8:45 Geography Bee
<b>Jan. 11</b>	End of Second Quarter
<b>Jan. 12</b>	11:30 Farm Show Dismissal
<b>Jan. 15</b>	No School – Snow Day???
<b>Jan. 18</b>	Fundraiser Hot Lunch – Parents Invited
<b>Jan. 29</b>	PTF – Spelling Bee 7:00 PM