

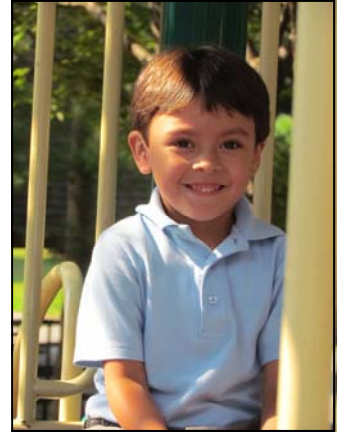


October 2011

Principal's Message: Five Biblical Principles to Impress upon Our Children

By Dr. Daniel Switzer

At Living Grace Christian School, we take seriously the need to train our children in godly character. One of the main ways we do this is through emphasizing five Biblical principles with the students. These five standards are more than just "class rules" or man-made laws. They are timeless truths of the Word of God. Our hope is that the students learn to apply these principles in order to have light for their path that applies to all of life. As Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path" (NIV). I encourage all parents and teachers to be emphasizing timeless principles from the Word of God such as these with their children.



Treat Others the Way You Want to Be Treated

Jesus authorized what has become known as the Golden Rule in Luke 6:31: "Do to others as you would have them do to you." This principle for life is golden indeed—it is a guide that helps us to focus on how we should treat others, no matter the situation. As parents, we can teach our children to treat their siblings the way they would want to be treated. When one of your children pushes a sibling or otherwise demeans a sibling, we can admonish our child by saying, "Would you want someone to do that to you?" After your child honestly answers, "No, I wouldn't," then we can help him to understand this principle by emphasizing, "Then you shouldn't do that to him either." As children learn to apply this Golden Rule to all of life, it surely will provide light to their path!

Obey Your Parents, Teachers, and Other Authorities

Ephesians 6:1 says, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right." Colossians 3:20 says, "Children, obey your parents in *all things*" (italics added). God in his wisdom has given parents the authority to train their children; we as parents need to walk confidently in our God-given authority in order to accomplish the task God has given us. Children are to obey their parents in all things. Also, children are to obey the authorities that their parents put in their lives, such as their teachers, pastors, and coaches.

This kind of Biblical obedience has two characteristics. Number one, it is first-time obedience. A child complying only after parental nagging and threats is not obedience. Secondly, Biblical obedience includes a heart attitude to willingly obey. Simply put, it's obedience with a good attitude. As I like to tell my students, "Your attitude determines your altitude." The more our children learn to quickly and fully obey the authorities in their lives, the more quickly they will enter the promised land God has for them.

Be Self-Controlled

The test of a child's training is that of self-control. If a child does not walk in self-control, then that child has not been fully trained yet. Self-control is one of the fruit of the Spirit given in Galatians 5:23. In addition, 1 Peter 5:8 exhorts, "Be self-controlled and alert." Students need to learn to walk in self-control. I like to tell the students, "Be self-controlled; not Dr. Switzer-controlled." In other words, control yourself and the teacher won't have to control you. In order for a child to be taught, that child must first be trained to walk under control. In order for a young person to be disciplined—to be a champion of God, that youth must first walk in self-control. It is a principle of life: In order to be able to truly teach someone, the person being taught needs first to be self-controlled. Otherwise, our efforts will be in vain.

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- Five Biblical Principles
- Reminders
- Support & Prayer Needs
- Parent News
- Volunteer Opportunities
- October Calendar

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Supporting the Mission of Living Grace Christian School: Raising Up Champions for God!

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Eph. 2:8-10).

Please share with your friends about Living Grace Christian School, a school where the parents, teachers, and children work together in positive Biblical teamwork and relationship to raise up champions of God—servant leaders of godly character who advance the cause of Christ and make disciples of all nations. Living Grace Christian School is committed to Christian Discipleship, Academic Excellence, and Godly Character Development. Families are encouraged to apply for financial assistance based on need.

Please pray about supporting Living Grace Christian School in the following ways:

1. Praying for the school.
2. Becoming a prayer partner—the school is committed to having consistent prayer support through seeking up to twelve prayer partners who agree to pray daily for the school.
3. Helping families who cannot pay the full tuition to send their children to the school through the "Student Champions Fund." We are committed to a ministry philosophy of "ministry over money" in which no family is excluded from the school due to financial hardship. Checks should be made out to Living Grace Christian School with "Student Champions Fund" written in the memo.
4. Supporting the long-term establishment of the school through the "Living Grace Christian School Endowment Fund." Checks should be made out to Living Grace Christian School with "Endowment Fund" written in the memo.
5. Providing volunteer help at the school.

If you desire to help in any of these ways, please feel free to call or email Dr. Switzer.



Prayer Needs

As stated above, the school is committed to having consistent prayer support through seeking twelve prayer partners who agree to pray daily for the school. If you would like to be a designated prayer partner, please talk to Dr. Switzer. Obviously, we encourage everyone to be praying for the school—parents, teachers, students, and extended family. Please pray for the following significant areas:

1. The spiritual life of all parents, teachers, and students, that our relationships with the Lord would be grace-filled and marked by integrity.
2. That parents, teachers, students, and Northgate congregants work together in positive Biblical teamwork and unified relationship.
3. Effective leadership and teaching, and a commitment to Christian discipleship, academic excellence, and godly character development.
4. Walking out our comprehensive plan for parent participation: pray that the teachers would effectively communicate with parents, be receptive and accessible to them, and treat them as partners in the educational process.
5. God's provision for families, including financial and transportation needs.
6. Parents as they fulfill the role as their child's primary teachers. Pray that parents would "reserve judgment" when their children give them a negative report about a school situation until they have the opportunity to talk with the respective teacher.
7. Excellent study habits, godly relationships, and prosperous health and safety for the entire school body.
8. Pastors and the larger Body of Christ to increasingly see the need to educate their children (and the future leaders of the Church) in a manner consistent with their Biblical beliefs.
9. Volunteers to help in the classrooms, office, and building.
10. Consistent financial support to help needy families to send their children to the school through the "Student Champions Fund."
11. The families of all the teachers, parents, and students.
12. We want to ask the entire school family to be praying for the Bush family. Cal Bush, who is in kindergarten, has a younger brother Rett, who has been diagnosed with lymphoblastic leukemia. Please pray for Rett's healing and for grace and strength for the Bush family. You can check on Rett's progress at www.caringbridge.org/visit/rettbush.
13. That these children would know that God has a plan for their lives; that God would raise up these children to be champions of God—servant leaders of godly character who advance the cause of Christ and make disciples of all nations! **Thank you for your prayers!**



Five Basic Principles to Impress Upon Our Children

(continued from page 1)

Talk in a Wholesome Way—Only Speak Words That Build Others Up

I love Ephesians 4:29 because this verse so strongly emphasizes the principle: “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.” I tell students that this verse expresses the boundary regarding what should be coming out of their mouths—only what helps others, builds them up according to their needs, and benefits those who listen. Talk such as put-

downs, gossip, complaining, and unwholesome speech has no place in their lives. In addition, I tell the students to not say, “I can’t.” The Bible says that the tongue has the power of life and death; therefore, we teach them to say, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!”

Work Wholeheartedly As unto the Lord

Finally, Colossians 3:23-24 says, “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.” We teach the students to do their work with all of their hearts as unto the Lord. Sometimes, students want to know if a particular assignment is going to be graded in order to know how much effort to put into that assignment. However, God calls us to do whatever we do with all of our heart, not just those things that will receive a grade from a teacher. This is a very important work ethic for our children—that they be trained to do their work with excellence—to put their all into what they do. In addition, we should call our children to do their work as if they are serving Christ. If they see themselves as **servicing Christ** through their work—as opposed to themselves or to get some kind of earthly reward—that will help to equip them for serving the Lord for eternal reward later in life. Our desire is that the students learn to serve the Lord for eternal purposes and that whatever their work may be, they should do that work unto the Lord—and wholeheartedly!

My encouragement to you is to emphasize Biblical principles such as these with your children regularly. Use teachable moments to impress God’s Word upon your children. In this way we will be raising them up to live according to God’s Word.

October’s Beatitude of Christ: Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. As we pray for our children and the school, I encourage you to refer to the “Prayer Needs” as given in this newsletter. The Lord has given us an excellent start to the school year. Parents, I want to congratulate you for your outstanding attendance at the back-to-school night. We have had a strong foundation established of working together as teachers and parents. Moreover, I’ve been very blessed by the students’ attitudes—they are respectful, obedient, and joyful.

As you know, this year we are focusing on the Beatitudes of Christ. Jesus said in *Matthew 5:4*: “*Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.*” *There are various things we mourn over, including the death of family and friends. In addition, the Lord teaches us to mourn over sin. Thanks be to Jesus, who saves us from our sins (Matt. 1:21).* Parents, please emphasize this trait with your children this month. Please intercede for the training of godly character in the students. May God’s grace be upon you and your families!

Reminders

Tuition Payments to Smart

Please remember that tuition payments are paid directly to the Smart Tuition Management Company. Each of you should have received a welcome letter and invoice from Smart Tuition. Tuition payments are due to Smart by the fifth of each month, August through May.

Uniforms

Students are to be dressed in the proper school uniform upon arrival to school. The regular school uniform is worn by students on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The physical education uniform is worn on Tuesdays and Thursdays. **As the weather turns colder, students may wear gray sweatpants and a gray sweatshirt on P.E. days.**



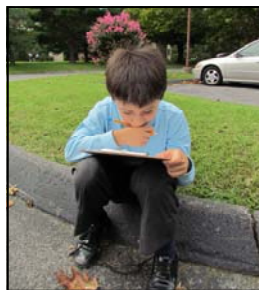
Note: While we don’t have an “official” uniform sweater, you may purchase a gray, navy blue, or white dress sweater for your child, if necessary.

October 14th Half-Day/Staff Development Afternoon

On October 14th, students will be dismissed at 12:00 noon. There will be no after-school homework club that day; parents should make plans to pick up their children at noon.

Parent News

MONDAY EMAIL. Parents are encouraged to use the information given in the email sent from the homeroom teacher each Monday. The teacher may highlight upcoming tests and/or share learning points of emphasis for that week. In addition, the student's assignment book lists the assignments for each day. Parents should turn to the pages listed in the respective books to see what their children are learning and check for complete work (for those assignments that have not been already signed off by a teacher). Parents are encouraged to use this tool to the degree necessary to reinforce learning at home.



OUTSTANDING ATTENDANCE AT BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT! Dr. Switzer wants to commend the parents for their attendance at Back-to-School Night. The vast majority of families were represented at this important evening to establish a strong working relationship. This speaks well of our family body; we are building a solid foundation for a successful school year.

APPRECIATION. Much appreciation goes to Mrs. Mell, Mrs. Gamero, Mrs. Lyman, Mrs. Perdomo, Mrs. Perez, and Mrs. Switzer for providing hospitality and refreshments at Back-to-School Night.

CHESS CLUB, MATH LEARNING CLUB, AND SPORTS CLUB STARTING!

Beginning the first week of October, our club programs begin. A flyer recently came home explaining how to sign up your children for the various clubs. We believe that these clubs provide our students with valuable recreational, educational, and athletic experiences at a very economical cost. Parents, please note on your calendars the days your children are signed up for clubs and pick them up at 4:15 p.m. on those days.

SCHOOL PICTURE DAY! On October 19th, we will be taking individual, class, and whole-school pictures. Please be sure your children are ready for this momentous day.

BOXTOPS AND GIANT A+ PROGRAMS. A flyer was recently sent home regarding how you can participate in these programs. We encourage you to support our school through these simple ongoing fundraisers.

Volunteer Opportunities

Substitute Teachers

We have a small need for substitute teachers. If you would like to be available to be called upon in the event a teacher needs a substitute, please call or email Dr. Switzer. A small payment is made for this service.

Math Book Checkers

We want to thank all those who are checking math books in the mornings. We feel like you are an army of mighty servants of the Lord. You are helping the students to excel in a very important subject. Thank you for your help!

Prayer for the Bush Family

We want to ask the entire school family to be praying for the Bush family. Cal Bush, who is in kindergarten, has a younger brother Rett, who has been diagnosed with lymphoblastic leukemia. Please pray for Rett's healing and for grace and strength for the Bush family. You can check on Rett's progress at www.caringbridge.org/visit/rettbush.

October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Chess Club Begins!	4 Math Club 6/7 Begins!	5	6 Sports Club Begins!	7 Midterms Math Club 8/9	8
9	10 Columbus Day NO SCHOOL	11 Math Club 6/7	12	13 Sports Club	14 Half Day: Dismissal at 12:00	15
16	17 Chess Club	18 Math Club 6/7	19 School Picture Day	20 Sports Club	21 Math Club 8/9	22
23	24 Chess Club	25 Math Club 6/7	26	27 Sports Club	28 Math Club 8/9	29

"For I know the plans I have for you . . . plans to give you hope and a future" (Jer. 29:11).

LIVING GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

20300 Pleasant Ridge Drive, Montgomery Village, MD 20886 | 301-840-9830 | email: dnlslvs@aol.com | www.lgcs.northgatecc.org