



Spring Issue
April, 2014

*The North Star News Reporters: Nyay Nyay Aye, Paw Say Htoo,
Genesis Rodriguez, Abigail Stapleton, Shir-val Williams*

Sewing Club Helps Children from Haiti

By Paw Say Htoo

Have you heard about the huge earthquake in Haiti? After the earthquake many people needed clothes. Grace Academy's Sewing Club wanted to help by making clothes for little girls and women.



Lisa, Marilyn and Doh from the 8th grade, and 6th grade students Jus and Paw Say, and 5th graders Genesis, Lulu and Maria were in Sewing Club in the 2nd quarter. We made sundresses for the kids in Haiti with the help of Ms. Renee, who taught us how to sew.

Most of us made sundresses, but Doh made pants. Both the sundresses and the pants were made out of old T-shirts. In the first week, we started by picking material, including bows. The next week, we started learning how to use the sewing machines and got really good at it. The week after that, we started making the dresses. It seemed easy at first, but after a while it became more difficult. With the help of Ms. Renee, though, most of us finished the hard part.

Unfortunately, some girls didn't finish the dresses because we had snow days. But luckily for us, before the club started, Ms. Renee and others at the church had already made some dresses.

Next year we might make more clothes for the Haitians. Some teachers and staff might go all the way to Haiti to deliver the dresses and pants and also help the sick and homeless by bringing food and medical supplies.

Helping the Haitians feels good. We hope you could do the same!

We've Got Talent!

By Shir-val Williams



Grace Academy's first talent show on February 6 was an event to be seen. The participants in this event did an amazing job showing us their special talents. The activities in the talent show included singing and dancing and some riddles by the teachers.

We all had a good time at this event. Many people said it was the best talent they've seen. The talented students who participated were: Julitza from the 8th grade; 7th grade students Alanna, Paw Ta, Liddy, Biaja and Angelica; 6th graders Shayland, Heavyhn, Tianna, Vilmari, Ashanti, Dayanara and Nyay Nyay; and Maria, Graciela, Tiana and Lulu from the 5th grade.

I hope there are more talent shows to come in the following years. I know one thing for sure: Grace Academy has talent!

A special thank you for all the parents who came out to watch the performances.

People in the News: Mr. Fitzsimons

By Nyay Nyay Aye

How much do you know about Mr. Fitzsimons, our Head of School? You may be surprised at what *The North Star News* learned in a recent interview.



When you were a little kid, what did you think you would do when you grew up?

My brother and I wanted to run our father's construction business.

Where did you go to high school and college?

Fordham Prep in New York and then Boston College.

Why did you choose to create and lead Grace Academy?

I wanted to help educate young ladies in Hartford.

What do you like about being a principal?

I'm joyful when I see the dedicated teachers and lovely students at Grace. I love learning from all the students – you've taught me a lot about life.

What do you do when you're not at school?

I play the guitar and like to go mountain climbing with family and friends.

Winter and Spring Sports at Grace Academy

By Genesis Rodriguez

Winter sports at Grace Academy include basketball, volleyball and intramural sports. Basketball has been very popular ever since the school started in 2010. Intramural sports – indoor soccer and J.V. basketball – are also enjoyable for many students.



Spring sports, including soccer, lacrosse and track, began in April. Spring sports are a lot of fun because instead of being in a gym all day, we are outside in an open field.

The North Star News recently interviewed several students and one teacher about their

participation in winter and spring sports:

What do you like most about playing basketball?

Angelica: You get to work in teams or groups and be aggressive.

Do you think it's better to play with other schools or your own teammates and why?

Angelica: Playing with other schools is better because you get to communicate with other people you may not know and test yourself.

What do you like most about volleyball?

Miss Piperi: The teamwork you build.

Do you think it's better to play with other schools or your own teammates?

Miss Piperi: There are positive and negatives to both.

What do you like most about playing intramural sports?

Biaja: I like that you get to play not only soccer but basketball.

What do you like most about soccer and why?

Thalia: It requires lots of skill, it's competitive, and very challenging.

Do you prefer playing with other schools or your own teammates?

Thalia: I like playing with other schools because I, myself, and other girls enjoy representing Grace Academy as best as we can. I also like playing with other schools because we get to share our talent and skill with other schools.

Why do you like running track?

Azoya: I feel like I'm free. It's also because I am so competitive.

Do you enjoy playing with other schools or your own teammates?

Azoya: My teammates, because it's really fun to play against my team, and it will be a friendly competition.

Why do you enjoy playing lacrosse?

Chit: Because it helps me stay in shape and have a healthy life.

Do you enjoy playing with other schools or with your own teammates?

Chit: Other schools, because it helps me become competitive.

Fun Facts About Oprah

By Paw Say Htoo, Abigail Stapleton, Shir-val Williams and Nyay Nyay Aye



March was Women's History Month, so *The North Star News*

reporters chose a woman they admired and would like to write about. Here's what they found out about Oprah:

- ✓ Born on January 29, 1954 in Kosciusko, Mississippi.
- ✓ Her name was originally spelled Orpah.
- ✓ Was voted Most Popular in her senior year.
- ✓ Also won the 1971 Miss Black Tennessee beauty pageant.
- ✓ At age 19, while still a sophomore in college, became the youngest and first African-American anchor for WTVF-TV in Nashville.
- ✓ Has her own television network.
- ✓ Nominated three times for an Emmy; won once.
- ✓ For eight years, made a Favorite Things list and gave audience members each item.
- ✓ Has five dogs: Sadie, a cocker spaniel; Luke and Layla, golden retrievers; and Sunny and Lauren, springer spaniels.
- ✓ Favorite color is green.

Book Roundup

By Abigail Stapleton

Divergent

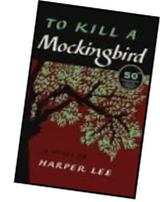
Author: Veronica Roth



Divergent is an adventuresome, spine-thrilling book. Maybe some of you have already seen the movie – the premiere was on March 21.

This book is the next big thing after the *Hunger Games*, and it's also the first book in a trilogy. It's about a girl named Tris who fights for where she belongs. She has to choose between bravery, intelligence, the truth and kindness.

Everybody will enjoy this book. It has adventure and mystery. If you are not into adventures or mysteries, just read it for the love story. Grab this book now. When you finish, tell me: Which faction are you?



To Kill a Mockingbird

Author: Harper Lee

To Kill a Mockingbird is a great novel that won the Pulitzer Prize. The main character Scout uses her fists instead of her head. During the Tom Robinson trial, Scout learns important lessons in life.

Reading this book will teach you a lot about Alabama during the Depression. You can join Scout, Atticus (Scout's father), Boo Radley and the rest of the characters in difficult situations.

I would only recommend this book to the older grades. If you are in the younger grades, talk to Ms. Coursey or your English teacher about reading the book. Also, the 8th grade class will read it with Ms. Noll.

Eighth Graders Name Favorite Classes and Clubs

By Abigail Stapleton

What is your favorite club?

Sabrina: Cooking.

Kierrah: Yearbook in the 6th grade.

Laura: Ceramics.

Marisol: Leadership Training.

Marilyn: Leadership Training.

What is your favorite subject?

Sabrina: English.

Kierrah: Social Studies.

Laura: Math.

Marisol: Math and Art.

Marilyn: Math and English.

Grace Academy Word Search

By Abigail Stapleton

See how quickly you can find the words below that describe
Grace Academy's unique community!

E Y R N G L W H L C Q R E W L
S L F J Z M E V T J Q M Y I U
Q A N V Q G C A Q C O D Z R F
I V V O M R O B D S E J M N P
C C W R T E U Z E E A P B G L
N L X O E A R W U B R U S A E
H O S P I T A L I T Y S W E H
A M A Z I N G Z Q V G O H Q R
J I D E T N E L A T N R K I D
M L F T S K O J K D P Q A G P
L Y N E A L U S E W H O O C V
F R Y Y H E S R G P V I S T E
G X U J U G F D I I V J D N M
O G K O P U N Q V A X V U B I
G J U B L R Q T Z P Z S L K I

AMAZING
GRACE
HOSPITALITY
TALENTED

AWESOME
GREAT
LEADERSHIP
WONDERFUL

COURAGEOUS
HELPFUL
RESPECT

