



*"I do not at all understand the mystery of grace - only that it meets us where we are, but does not leave us where it found us."*  
Anne Lamott

## March - Celebrating Women's History

### **Helen Keller**

By: Nicole Cardenas



Helen Keller, by the age of one, had suffered "an acute congestion of the stomach and brain" which left her deaf and blind. She was born in Tuscumbia Alabama on the 27th of June, 1880. In 1886 the Perkins Institute provided Helen with a teacher, Anne Sullivan. She came to serve as Helen's teacher, and would stay with her throughout her life. Anne was twenty one years old and had sight problems herself. She had multiple surgeries and recovered.

One month after her arrival, Anne had taught Helen the word "water." From then on Helen was a fast learner. In only three years she learned the manual alphabet in sign language, the Braille alphabet and could read and write.

By the time she was sixteen Helen had passed the admission examinations for Radcliffe College. She graduated in 1904, cum laude. This would never have been accomplished without the help of Anne Sullivan.

As a young woman, Helen, having a deep devotion to humanity, lectured throughout the world, worked to spread her ideas to Congress and wrote thousands of letters asking for contributions to finance efforts to improve the welfare of the blind. Helen visited hospitals and helped blind soldiers. She taught the blind to be courageous and make their lives as good as possible. When Helen died she became a worldwide inspiration to society. Her name is now a symbol of what the human spirit can accomplish, despite any sickness or physical limitations. Helen died on June 1, 1968.



Reference: "Helen Keller." 2012. Biography.com 04 Apr 2012, 11:17  
<http://www.biography.com/people/helen-keller-9361967>

## ***Grace Academy North Star Reporter By-lines***

### **Chastity Dunn**

My name is Chastity. I love purple and blue. I like writing because I can express how I'm feeling inside.

### **Melanie MejiasWasy**

I am Melanie. I chose the North Star newspaper because I wanted to experience of a reporter.

### **Kayla Walton**

I'm Kayla Walton. I am in the 7th grade and 12 years old. I love *Glee* and I want to be in the newspaper because I love writing.

### **Kierrah Harris**

I am Kierrah Harris and I am 11 years old. I like the TV Show *iCarly*. I am on the newspaper, and I am going to do my best to make the newspaper good.

### **Kyoe Paw**

My name is Kyoe and I love to draw. My favorite color is blue and I like to write stories about myself.

### **Tanasia Marrett**

I'm Tanasia, people call me Nay-Nay or Tay-Tay for short. I love the TV show *Degrassi*. I'm in the 7th grade at Grace Academy.

### **Nicole Cardenas**

My name is Nicole. I am 12 and in the 6th grade. I am new to Grace Academy and I am on the newspaper so I can get to know the school better.

### **Azoya Clarke**

My name is Azoya. I am 10 years old and in the 5th grade (also known as the Marian Anderson class). I like watching TV and playing outdoors. I am writing for the newspaper because I like to write and share my ideas with others.

**Come and See the  
Grace Academy Basketball  
Games** because its fun to watch and we  
play good defense!

You can also see  
how we make foul  
shots, jump-shots,  
lay-ups and maybe  
regular shots from  
any place.

**Go Grace!!**

Come on Mondays and Thursdays  
to watch us play



## **Grace Academy's Basketball Team**

*By Melanie MejiasWasy!*

Our basketball team is tenacious, intensive and courageous. We play our best at every single game; we try our best too, even if we lose. We know that we won in our defensive playing.

But one of the things that I love about basketball is the new move we learned. My favorite is a play called "GRACE" ...it's when a person comes down with the ball and yells "Grace," we move to the side and then we pivot and run back to our spot, catch the ball and make a shot. We haven't used it in any of our games yet, but we do use it in practice and whenever we have a game against each other.

One of the good things about our team is our teamwork. When we are playing a game, we use our teamwork power. And, by the end of



the game, you could go up to every player on the team and ask, "Did you get the ball" and everyone would say "yes." That's because we don't hog the ball, we pass it to each other, and we play the game to our best ability.

We also have great sportsmanship. A great example is when we switch players on and off the bench, we tell each other that you've done a very good job, and that the player was doing great out there. Another reason we have great sportsmanship is at the end of the game we tell the other team that they did a great job, and that we had a good game.

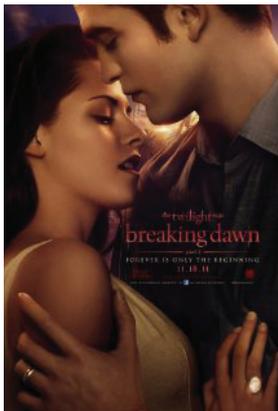
One thing I could say about basketball is that it's fun and I love it! Grace Academy basketball is fun because we get to be with our friends and learn new cool things together. We learn from each other's mistakes and it helps us improve in our games and skills. It's fun because sometimes you make mistakes, and it's funny if you miss a shot, because it sometimes just is and there's nothing you can do about it. There are a lot of other fun things about basketball at Grace that I could mention. So just come on down to Grace Academy and see for yourself... **watch us play our games!**

## A Movie Review

By Chastity Dunn

### **Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn (part one)**

This movie is a great movie! In this movie there is a lot of fighting between vampires and werewolves, and attacks on humans. Also, in my opinion, this movie has one of the most blood-sucking, attention-grabbing scenes ever.



I think Taylor Lautner did a great job acting, and he never once seemed to change his character from the beginning to the end of the movie. I agree with the rating of PG13 for this movie. It attracts an audience of teens and people who like romance and adventure.

My recommendation: Go see it. It's great!

...from the Sports Desk of Chastity Dunn

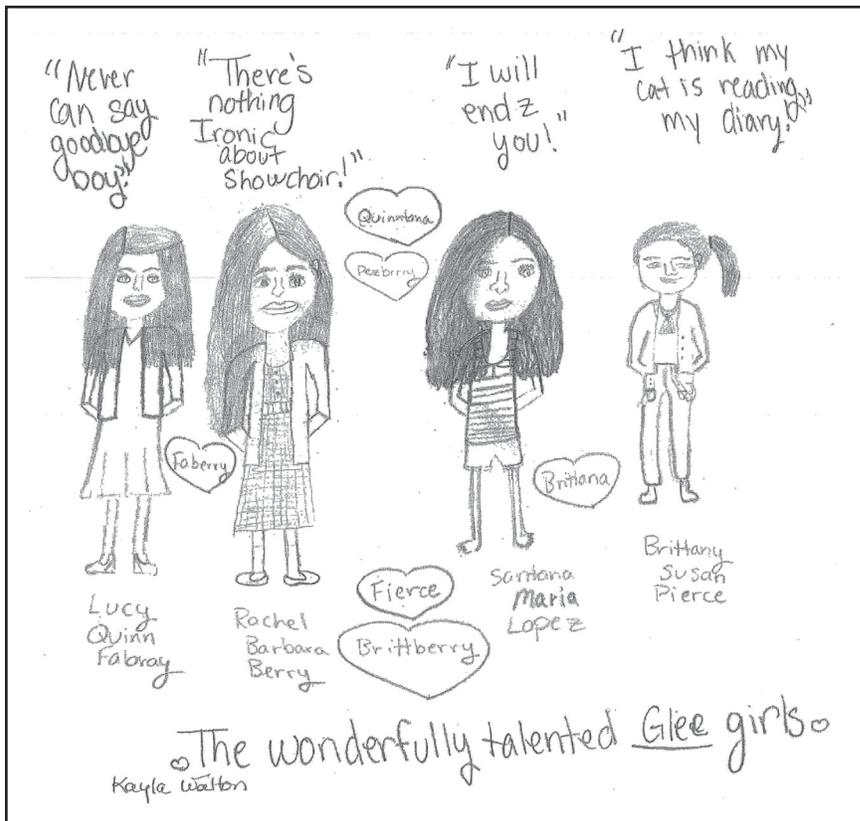


### **The 2012 Super Bowl Recap:**

In the Super Bowl, Giants and Patriots go head to head. Patriots try to keep up and are trying hard, but at the end of the game, calculations added up...I would say that Patriots hustled, but not fast enough or hard enough, because...

Giant's won and Patriots lost.

**Score was Giants=21 and Patriots =17!**



### **Come to Visit Grace Academy**

because it symbolizes **Leadership, Courage, Respect and Grace.**

Grace Academy is a place where you are taught to be ladies of dignity and respect.



If you want outstanding sports choices and impeccable peers, than you should make a stop at **Grace Academy!**

### **Visit Grace Academy Clubs**

**Where:** The clubs

**Why:** They give your child/student an opportunity to be smart in hobbies and fun things. Some of the fun things are...pottery, acting, cooking, newspaper, photography.



**So Come on Down...**

it'll be better than candy or money, ...and fun too!!!

## Opinion Corner...

In a recent tour of the Harriet Beecher Stowe House, the students learned about Harriet Beecher Stowe's publication of Uncle Tom's Cabin in the newspapers of her day. She focused on the issue of the times: slavery. Below are a few students' letters focusing on issues of today:

Dear President or Mrs. Obama,

In this world today there is a problem. People tend to litter more than in years passed and it's as if they don't even care about the world they live in or their environment.

I have a plan to stop this, because the littering is also polluting the air we breathe. We can help make a change by making sure parks or other community spaces have garbage cans and recycling too. We should provide communities with these materials because the community would be cleaner and citizens would probably enjoy the fresh air a little more. Moreover, we could cut down on excessive pollution by using solar panels in factories so they aren't using too much electricity which causes pollution. Also, I think that someone can invent solar panels for night time, which would capture the light from the moon and the stars. I really need your help to make our world a better place for all people to feel safe, secure and happy with their environment. Just think of it... a place where everyone would love and take care of our world.

Sincerely,  
Azoya M.J. Clarke  
5<sup>th</sup> grade student

Dear Governor Malloy,

Our problem in America is that drugs and alcohol are making people die or get injured very seriously. That may well be a problem because people now a days are drinking and driving and I think that is wrong because they can die or get injured. There is a way we can make a change. New laws that stop the selling of alcohol in stores, and stop selling drugs on the streets. We should make this law because more people can stop all these things that are bad, and have a better life. We all need the support of President Obama, you and all the other governors. We need the support of all these people so people will listen.

Sincerely,  
Genesis Marie Rodriguez  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade Student

Dear President Obama,

There is a problem that is happening everywhere around the world. This problem is Domestic Violence. Domestic violence is when men and women beat up their children or it is when someone is being beaten every day. Domestic violence really bothers me, because it can cause suicide or very serious injuries. We can stop domestic violence by protesting, using TV commercials and articles in the newspaper. Domestic Violence happens everywhere and we have a chance to stop it.

Sincerely,  
Victoria Vazquez  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade Student

Dear President Obama,

I am concerned about what is happening in Uganda with Joseph Kony. When I heard about it I was very terrified. I imagined myself in those children's position: being forced to do something we don't want to do. The problem with these children is that many of them, maybe millions, are getting abducted from their families and being forced to kill their own families. This is a very harsh thing to do. Kony makes the boys take drugs and go to war with other people and carry around a gun; the girls have to be sex slaves. This is very upsetting and I think we should put a stop to this. If everyone helps out we can make a difference, we can make sure everyone finds out about what's going on...spreading the word to schools, families and neighborhoods. I really want to make sure that the head of the United States, including governors, military, policemen, mayors and many more know about Kony.

I really want to make a difference and I think you are the one person who can help the most. You're the man that can make a difference. I admire you and believe that you can help us.

Sincerely,  
Joeliz Gonzalez

P. S. I am 13 years old and in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and go to school at Grace Academy. I am a woman of dignity and respect and believe that I can make a difference in the world.

*cont'd on p.5*

To the editor of the Hartford Courant:

These are especially tough times, so why should we worry more about the earth?

Our world is changing and it's changing fast. Trees are being cut and not replanted right away, species that we hunt and kill are becoming extinct and fresh water is becoming scarce. Please keep reading to learn more about these horribly tragic events.

Did you know that trees produce oxygen for us to breathe and survive? Then why on earth would we want to cut these precious pieces of life down? We use these wonderful life forms for things that we don't necessarily need. For example, we can find other ways or materials to use for pencils; they're called "mechanical pencils." Mechanical pencils are a way of saving wood and a way of writing!

Secondly, I want to talk about the issue of endangered species. Animals are life, they live, run and are supposed to live in peace with humans. Yet we hunt then, kill them, and eat them! We also kill them for fun, or for their skin, hides or ivory. These animals, like the elephants sixty years ago were nearly extinct because people or poachers would kill them for their skin, but mostly for their tusks of ivory .

Lastly, I would like to talk about the issue of scarce fresh water. Fresh water is becoming very scarce in a lot of places. It is said that we might run out of fresh water in 50 years if we keep going at this rate; so we need to do something about it! We could all do more than just let it happen!

In conclusion, I would like to say that we can do more than just stand around and watch all this go by! WE can use mechanical pencils to save the trees, stop killing animals, and we can take shorter showers to save fresh water. Anyone can do this, so try to make a difference for humankind. Try to make a change to make this world a better place.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Hariprasad  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade Student

To any Company that Uses Animals to Test On

Just because animals have no voice to protect themselves, doesn't mean you can hurt them. Animal cruelty isn't right, so why do it? Other companies do not use animals in testing. Please stop, you can use different products such as cotton or silk. You don't see how the chemicals affect the animals. They burn, hurt them. The animals have feelings you know,. Just because they don't have a voice and cannot say "no don't hurt me," doesn't mean it is okay to use them in chemical testing processes. The chemicals or products used on any animal, big or small, good or bad, reptile or mammal, it doesn't matter...no animal should be used for testing. The only reason this happens is because animals have no voice to speak out.

Sincerely,  
Ceanna Diaz  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade Student

**Holiday Word Find  
Valentine's Day and Easter**

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

- |         |          |
|---------|----------|
| BASKET  | BEMINE   |
| BUNNY   | CANDY    |
| EGGHUNT | EGGS     |
| FLOWERS | GRASS    |
| HEART   | ILOVEYOU |
| LOVE    | YOURHOT  |

# Holidays in Thailand

By: Kyoe Paw



I am from Thailand. We celebrate many holidays in Thailand, some are like our US holidays and some are very different.

For most holidays we wear special clothes. The girls can wear dresses of white, green and black. Some have flowers. Some

of the clothes you wear only for certain holidays, like New Years or your birthday. The boys wear costumes of mostly white or red.

## **Chinese/Karen New Years:**

This is a holiday where there is a big celebration. Usually there is a paper dragon that 12 people move with a stick making it twist through a park. We also celebrate with the Karen Traditional Dance of 12 girls and 12 boys moving within and over bamboo sticks. They wear special costumes, girls wear white and the boys wear red. This dance is called "Dom dance." The Karen New Year also has good foods for this holiday like sticky rice and fried chicken.



**Easter:** The Easter holiday is celebrated in Thailand like it is here in the United States with Easter candy, eggs and bunnies. We give Easter candy to one another.

**Christmas:** At Christmas time we go house to house and sing Christmas Carols. We also celebrate with more dancing and great foods including chicken, pork and sticky rice.

**Food:** At Holidays there are different kinds of food. In the Karen tradition there is noodle soup with chicken, noodles, carrots, onion, and peppers. There is also a favorite dish called *takataw*; which is boiled rice and dried meat (made into a porridge). The food is spicy.

# A Good Spring Vacation

By Melanie MejiasWasyl

During spring vacation you might want to go to a place where the weather is so great! What I suggest is that you go to Florida... you and your kids can go outside any time you want. You won't have to worry about dressing them the right way because the weather is going to be perfect all day.



Another good thing is that you can keep your kids active by doing sports, such as fishing, swimming, amusement parks, snorkeling and scuba diving. These

activities will keep your kids busy all day long. And, you can have a little time of your own or just join your kids.

Another cool thing that your kids will enjoy is the animals they are going to see. These are animals that they don't see every day. These exotic animals are very cool and interesting such as crocodiles, sharks, starfish, dolphins



and many more.



Some daily activities many people do outdoors is to explore, the beautiful outdoor features, gardens, beaches, lakes to name a few.

You may ask, "why Florida?" I say, as a kid, that it is fun! You can experience different things; you can even go visit resorts and Aquariums. And this trip is going to be a good educational trip for your kids too. By the end of the trip, your kids will be thanking you and they're going to be very grateful.



This is why I say...**Florida!**



# Getting to Know YOU!

## Ms. Colleen Krmpotich

By: Kayla Walton

Ms. Krmpotich is a Social Studies and Math teacher. In her spare time she enjoys reading books, exercising, watching movies, and spending time with her friends and family.

This outstanding role model was born and raised in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Ms. Krmpotich's favorite colors are all of them, because they are all unique in their own way.

This beautiful lady's favorite food is ribs, and her favorite book is the Harry Potter Series.

This encouraging woman likes all types of music.

She says that she is working in the job she has dreamt of, when the girls of Grace Academy are agreeable!

Now you know a little more about Ms. Krmpotich.

## Mrs. Gina Bolduc

By: Kierrah Harris

Mrs. Gina is our Office and Admissions Manager at Grace Academy.

I interviewed Mrs. Gina Bolduc and got just some simple information about her.

Some facts about Mrs. Gina are . . .

- Mrs. Gina likes to read books, take walks with her dogs, and she likes to play games in her free time.
- Mrs. Gina was born in Bridgeport, CT, but she was raised in Stratford, CT.

Some other interesting things about Mrs. Gina are . . .

- Mrs. Gina's favorite colors are purple, blue, and red
- Mrs. Gina's favorite food is pizza
- Mrs. Gina's favorite book is The Outlander

As you can see you learned a lot about Mrs. Gina that you probably did not really know. I hope you enjoyed it.

## Ms. Lauren House

By: Kyoee Paw

I interviewed Miss House because I wanted to learn interesting things about her. She teaches Language Arts and Social Studies.

Ms. House likes to watch movies, read books, hang out, talk to friends on the phone, and cook in her free time.

She was born and raised in Connecticut.

Her favorite color is all of them because she enjoys each color for itself.

Her favorite food is chicken and dumplings.

Her favorite book is Skinny Legs by Tom Robert.

The type of music Ms. House likes is "bluegrass/rock."

The best news about her is that she is working in her dream job. Since she was in fifth grade, Ms. House has wanted to be a teacher.

Hope you learned more about Ms. House too!

## A Poet's Voice

by Kayla Walton

When the sun comes down the night is bright  
The sky wants to make the moon and sun come together  
The stars are trying to convince the sun and moon to  
get together but they won't  
I can't believe the sun is such a hot head  
The moon is as cold as the arctic igloos  
many clouds just want them to stop their fight  
but it never works  
All the doors are closed to the sky world and  
no one can enter

### The World

The cold breeze blows in my face  
I can feel the sun shine like there is a new day  
The cars are roaring trying to get away  
The people know the time is running out  
But they are still hurting the ones around them  
The sun rises when the moon is out of view  
I feel that I am a planet orbiting my dream  
Sometimes that dream is forgotten when I am furthest  
And when I am close I remember I have to reach that goal  
When you look at the stars tell yourself one of them  
is you.



## A Writer's Reflection

### Music

By: Azoya Clarke



Music can be enjoyed in many ways.  
You can play, sing or even dance to music.

I prefer playing and singing music. I like to play the violin and piano.  
But there are many more and very different kinds of instruments. For example,  
there are drums, clarinets, cellos, violas and many others.

Singing music is fun, because everyone is so different, so their singing  
styles are different too. For example, some people have very high voices, whereas  
other people have very low voices. They sing the parts of soprano, alto, bass and others.  
There are also different kinds of music. There is rock, pop, hip hop, bluegrass; plus jazz  
classical and county. The first song that I ever learned to sing and play on both the violin  
and piano was *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*.

You can also dance to music, expressing yourself by moving in many ways.  
Some dance ballet, if they really enjoy that type of dance. Others can dance step, tap  
and ballroom or choose from many others.

