



***Our Mission ~ Bright Futures Christian School exists to glorify God by providing the finest Christian education that nurtures all student growth and development academically, socially, spiritually and physically by providing opportunities through education, guidance, and experience.***

## Six More Weeks

Six more weeks of winter is what Punxsutawney Phil predicted on Groundhog's Day this past week. When he sees his own shadow it is said that he gets scared and goes back in to sleep for 40 more days. I am not sure if we will really get six more weeks of winter weather, but it does get me to thinking about what we can accomplish over the next six weeks -- besides sleeping.

I consider it a privilege to go in and out of the classrooms on a daily and weekly basis, to see our amazing teachers guiding and caring for our kids here at BF. It is always exciting to see students learning, whether it be ABCs, multiplication, or simply how to share with each other. When students learn something new, it is very exciting. But when they start to act out the characteristics of Christ, it is truly His love in action. What can we accomplish in six weeks? Well, **only God knows the full impact of what we can accomplish** and learn in six weeks, but from my vantage point, it's a lot.

Let's not forget that Philippians 4:13 says, *We can do all things through Christ Jesus who gives us strength.* It says earlier in the book of Philippians, *Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.* The sleeping Punxsutawney Phil will miss so much as we present our request to God over the next six weeks.

Speaking of accomplish! I want to give kudos to the Auction Committee and all of you who have helped with sponsorship and donations. We still have lots to do, but we are well on our way to another successful night. **Please mark your calendars for April 14th.** If you have not had the opportunity to come to one of our auctions, I hope that you do. It is an exciting event where many families have met lifetime friends. The auction is a fundraiser that benefits the entire school. Our annual budget is able to balance every year, with ten to fifteen percent of our budget provided by these fundraisers. Based on our enrollment numbers, by percentage the preschool would technically benefit more than the elementary! Over the years, we have made a few specific purchases with designated funds from the auction. We look forward to many more accomplishments with your support.

As we look forward, we look past the next six weeks at what is to come. We are excited to participate in the upcoming vision night here at Grace. Come see what we have in store as we look into the next season and launch our campaign to build more classrooms and gym space. Please bring the attached raffle ticket with you for a chance to win.

Blessings for a great month, I mean six weeks! ~ **Cindie**

### **GRACE CHURCH UPCOMING EVENTS**

**VISION NIGHT ~ SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2012**

**DOORS OPEN AT 5 P.M. FOR PRAYER~ 5:30 KICKS OFF FAMILY PHOTOS AND 1/2 PRICE COFFEE CART DRINKS**



**==> WWW.GRACEVISIONNIGHT.COM <==**

**DOOR PRIZES, FUN FOR ALL, CHILDCARE AVAILABLE FOR PRESCHOOL AGE AND UNDER! BRING YOUR TICKET AND JOIN THE BIG EVENT!**

## Calendar Check

- \* **FEB 7 - AUCTION MEETING**  
6:30 p.m.
- \* **Feb 12 - GRACE CHURCH VISION NIGHT (see below)**
- \* **Feb 17 & 20 - NO SCHOOL**  
President's Weekend
- \* **Feb 22 - SLT MEETING**  
3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
- \* **Feb 24 - SNEAK PEEK**  
6:30 p.m.
- \* **Mar 9 - NO SCHOOL**  
In-Service
- \* **March 26 - April 6**  
SPRING BREAK!!
- \* **Apr 14 - L.I.T.E. AUCTION**  
5:30 p.m., at Grace Church

## SNEAK PEEK

To help our guests feel more comfortable and connected, we encourage you to join the families you invite!

NOTE: NEW FAMILIES WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO REGISTER EARLY, STARTING AT THE SNEAK PEEK until open registration on Mar 1.

CURRENT FAMILIES need to



## Shining Lights Team -- *Be the Salt. Be the Light.*

**NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, FEB. 22, 3:30 - 4:30 P.M.**

**FOCUS:** Students will be making gifts for Mountainview House Nursing Home residents. Items will be presented by elementary students when they visit (TBA). Preschool parents, please attend the SLT meeting with your child. You are also invited to join the elementary school classes when they go to the nursing home!

Contact Rachael Hallett with questions (babyposies@hotmail.com).



# Preschool Points

## Spanish

This month the Pre-K students will focus on letters LL, M, and N, y Ñ. The Spanish alfabeto has 4 extra letters in comparison with the English alphabet. So far we will have learned about three extra letters CH, LL, and Ñ. See if your child can figure out which other letter is also an extra letter. We will continue working on our numbers 1-20, and learning to recognize them out of sequence. Since the "big" kids have been signing their numbers all the way to 100, the pre-K and K wanted to join in! So many of them, especially those in the Kindergarten class, are already learning 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, and of course 100! ~ **Maestra Jessi**

## Making Music

January has been a month of birds! The preschoolers have been singing like owls, sleeping like robins, and flying like an assortment of birds. They've been using percussion instruments to recreate a winter thunderstorm and the sounds of working parts in a factory.

We've been dancing to a French children's song and singing an English translation, *I Hear the Mill Wheel*. Students continue to express with their bodies what they hear in classical music by dancing with scarves. This month's composers: Mozart and Saint-Saëns. ~ **Mrs. Suarez**

**February Virtue:** Self-Control

**February Verse:** Proverbs 25:28 (The Message)

"A person without self-control is like a house with its windows and doors knocked out."

**February Themes:**

\* Valentines \* Fairy Tales \* Nursery Rhymes

## FOCUS: Mrs. Anitra's Afternoon Rhinos Class

The 4 and 5 year old Rhinos have plugged along this January, covering the letters K, L, M, and N as well as the themes winter and construction. We are half-way through the alphabet! We have added a couple of new students that have adjusted beautifully to our group. This class keeps challenging me to take them to the next level, as they are maturing in their learning and play. We are looking forward to Valentine's Day and our much-anticipated "P" party!

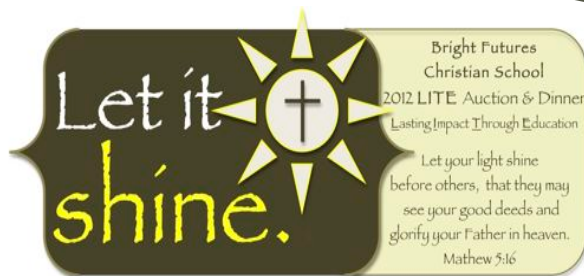


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We start each class with the "Freeze Dance" -- ask your preschooler about it! We are learning that our thumbs are shy and they need to stay hidden behind our fingers when we dance! We have practiced having straight legs while we are in arabesque. A new challenge: learning how to place our feet and arms in "second position." ~ **Mrs. Silva**

## Auction Action Items

- Tickets for the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual L.I.T.E. Auction on Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, are still available for \$49! Purchase yours today at [www.brightfuturesonline.org](http://www.brightfuturesonline.org).
- Have you procured your **two family donation items** for the auction? If you haven't handed in your procurement forms to your room mom or school office, please hand them in as soon as possible. Remember, the actual item does not need to be handed in; we just need to know what you plan to donate. If you still need help procuring items, please contact Trisha or Tracy at [auction@brightfuturesonline.org](mailto:auction@brightfuturesonline.org).
- We will start collecting items for our **weekly baskets** in February. These donations are *optional and don't count as your family donation*; but, if you have access to any of these items, we will gladly take them off your hands.
  - o Feb 6: Family Games
  - o Feb 13: Chocolate
  - o Feb 20: Gift Cards
  - o Feb 27: Family Movie Night



- Back by popular demand, the **dessert dash** will return to this year's auction. Are you willing to donate a home-made dessert? Please contact Julianna Trapp ([jnlarrison@yahoo.com](mailto:jnlarrison@yahoo.com)) if you can help out.
- Does your employer match your charitable donations? If so, consider making a cash donation to the auction (for example, donate to the Principal's Appeal). Your **employer's matching** application process can take several weeks, so start looking into this option today.
- Next auction meeting: **February 7<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM** at Grace FourSquare Church. Feel free to attend!

# Elementary Update

## P.R.I.D.E. 5 Paws

After 5 months of focusing on individual character traits, it's time to start bringing them all together. The new P.R.I.D.E. 5 Paws for this month have ALL 5 character traits on them. Teachers and staff will be on the lookout for students demonstrating ANY of the traits, and handing out Paws accordingly! As a special incentive, for every TWO Paws received for demonstrating the SAME trait, the student will be awarded a special "P.R.I.D.E. 5 Charm" (i.e. two Paws for being POLITE = a charm; four Paws for being POLITE = 2 charms)! Charms can be earned for all traits. Show your P.R.I.D.E. 5!!

## Dance

Moving right along, we continue to work on flexibility and stress the importance of proper technique across all classes. We have introduced "3rd position."

Second grade and up is beginning to use a wall to stretch muscles, working on doing the splits, and, as always, building on skills we have been learning all year long. "Chaine turns" and "triplet" are dance terms familiar to these students. Older students are also developing "opposition arm movements" to go along with legs for dances.

~Mrs. Silva

## Music & Piano

**MUSIC:** Grade school is finished with the Irish music unit; and we have Wales and Scotland left in or British Isles music unit. We have also been exploring the families of the orchestra, and listening to a variety of different musical excerpts that highlight them.

Kinder classes are having fun with orchestra families, bird songs, and music games and dances.

**PIANO:** Piano is busy as several classes are wrapping up levels and making great progress. Way to go! ~Ms. Idsinga

**Chapel Chat** - In the spirit of keeping chapel fresh, Mrs. Humber's class performed a Festival of Purim play. It was very interactive and the students did a terrific job. Thanks to all the parents who attended, the support is wonderful! Coming up, we will address the topic of forgiveness. I'll kick the month off, followed by Mrs. Busch's class, and Pastor Christ Caudle. ~ **Anitra**

**S** The elementary students will be learning how to calculate IN SPANISH. Since they are easily able to recognize their numbers 1-100 and even spell them correctly, it is time to start computing! Mas = plus, Menos = minus, Son igual a = equal to, por = times, and entre = divided by. Our vocabulary study will continue to focus on the parts of the body and numbers 11 through 100. We continue to do a short journal write both days and the students are becoming proficient at writing the date for today, yesterday, and tomorrow.

**P** The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students were proud to share their *Brilla, Brilla* books with the Kindergarten class. We just have a few more books to be shared and then they will become your personal treasure!

**a** Remember you can add another layer of Spanish at home with a subscription to the Ana Lomba fairytales. For under \$7 each month you get 6 different stories that you can access from 5 different computers/iPads at home or on the go! Students can toggle between English & Spanish as they enjoy six embellished yet familiar fairytales. To subscribe go to: <http://analomba.com/products/go.php?r=4> and let me know what you think! ~ **Maestra Jessi**

**P.** The elementary grades at Bright Futures continue to run amazing distances. We have presently run **322 miles**. We have almost reached Spokane, WA, as we continue our trek across the state. Well done, Lions!

**E.** The health section of PE will be focused on body composition this month. We will be looking at building strong muscles. This will be stressed in both the K-1 classes and the 2-5 classes. Our motor skills units will be jump rope for K-1, and a basketball unit for grades 2-5.

All students have been doing a fantastic job in class. I have thoroughly enjoyed their enthusiasm and their desire to learn new skills!

~ **Mr. Burnham**

## Focus on Mrs. Humber's 2nd/3rd Grade Class

"All the world's a stage!" and Bright Futures is no different! Our 2nd & 3rd graders had the delightful and challenging time of experiencing the stage twice in the past few months: the December Christmas production with over 100 children, and, in January, their own classroom production of the Book of Esther from the Old Testament.

King Ahashuerus, the Guards, Mordechai, Haman, Esther, Queen Vashti and the Narrators brought together the thrill of theater, the drama of the Old Testament, and the life lessons of the Scriptures. Parents and schoolmates joined the audience to participate in the experience (including "booing" at the name of Haman) during Chapel service.

Combining formal education and theater has many benefits. From a **literature** perspective, the story of Esther came alive through a look at the work of various authors, use of *language, plot details, and setting*. The students practiced **public speaking** focusing on *speed, volume and pronunciation*. Many even memorized their lines! **Confidence** - even for the shy student - always grows after a formal, successful presentation. **Creativity** flows in designing and creating costumes, props, facial expressions, and the overall production. Let's not forget **teamwork** and the benefit of repeated practice! The enjoyment of a job well done after putting in the hard work is a life lesson well worth the time and energy.

Who knows? We may have many theater experts and Biblical scholars in the making... and maybe they "have come to a royal position for such a time as this." (Esther 4:14b) ~Mrs. Humber

