

January, 6th 2009

Dear Grace Christian Parents:

There are a number of significant changes that have taken place in the last three weeks at Grace Christian School. As the economy has suffered a recession, it has greatly affected our school budget.

For the first time in the history of Grace Christian School, we have been forced to lay off several assistants. In addition, several of our staff members have taken significant cuts in their wages to keep other staff members here. The projection for the end of the year is that of a \$60,000 deficit if we do nothing.

We have made several changes in the organizational structure of the school to divide the labor to cover as many areas as possible. One of these areas is in Administration. Mrs. Watterud will be working with contacts and volunteers to increase enrollment and build the capital fund for the school as well as general administration work. Mrs. Denham will be in charge of the day to day operations of the elementary and Jr. High/school to free time for Mrs. Watterud to change focus.

It is of extreme importance that every household pay their tuition fees on time. Delays in receiving tuition payments mean delays in paying our staff. Also a number of households have not paid the mandatory fee of \$200 that replaced our fundraising efforts. We need this money as soon as possible. We have several ideas of ways to raise funds. We hope to raise the monies needed without raising tuition at this time. If everyone works together to do their best, we should be able to accomplish this.

Since we have had to cut assistant positions from the budget, we now more than ever need volunteers to fill the gaps in our school. There are many ways in which you can help. We need reading circle volunteers, grading papers, recess monitors, help with PE, etc. You will be contacted in the next few days and asked in what areas and time slots you can be available. This puts our Heart of a Servant program as a top function of the PTF. The next PTF meeting will be **Monday evening at 7:00pm** We would like to have a representation from every school family at that meeting.

Due to the 5 missed snow days, we also have had to make changes in our school calendar. Please note these dates and **time changes** on your calendar.

1. All grades will start school at **8:15am** starting **January 27th** until the last day of school, tentatively June 5th. The snow days must be made up according to the Oregon State Law. We feel it would be easier to add 15 mins. to each day rather than to add another week at the end of the school year. Any student who arrives after 8:15 am will be considered tardy, as classes will be in session.
2. February 19th is the Spaghetti Dinner for all families. This will be a full day of school for ALL Grades except for Kindergarten. The Am/Pm classes will be combined in the morning. Volunteers will be needed for the dinner to stay on the schedule as staff will be unavailable.
3. April 3rd is scheduled as a Teacher In Service Day and Roller Skating event. Roller Skating will be canceled and a regular 1/2 day of school will be added with dismissal at 11:30 for elementary grades and 12:00 for Jr.high/high school.

Thank you for your consideration of all these adjustments and we covet your prayers as we continue to work to make Grace Christian School the best it can be. Although several Christian schools around the country have had to close because of similar economic difficulties, we fully believe that the plan we have devised will be successful in keeping Grace Christian School not only open but growing and expanding in the years to come.

In His Service,

Grace Christian Administration
GCS Board