

Shepherd's Staff



Inside this issue:

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| New English Curriculum | 2 |
| Jr. High Mentoring | 2-3 |
| G.S. Fitness Program | 3 |
| G.S. Soccer Team | 4 |
| Boys Volleyball | 4 |
| Toys for Tots | 5 |

Special points of interest:

- G.S. Class Christmas Parties
- Christmas Concert
- First Grade Thanksgiving Feast
- G.S. School Auction
- New T.R.A.C.K.S. Director
- Student Teacher

Why Do We Wear Standardize Dress?

By: Carmen Swiatek

There are many different thoughts about standardize dress here at Good Shepherd. Some people love it, and some people do not. There are different thoughts about what we should wear from students to parents to the faculty.



Students Modeling Standardize Dress

Beau Swiatek, a seventh grade student, said, "I think kids should have the option to choose what they wear, but it would just have to be appropriate." Maddy Goodwin, another seventh grade student said, "I like standardize dress because you don't have to worry about how to dress or what people would think about you because we all wear the same thing."

Some students don't mind standardize dress, but they wish it had more options. Quinn Overby, a seventh grade student, said, "I wish there were more options on color for the uniform; it would make it more fun." However, other students strongly dislike the dress code. Olivia Gray, an eighth grade student says, "I hate school dress because I hate

looking like everyone else." We've heard several

opinions from students, but how do the parents feel about standardize dress? Christina Swiatek, mother of two Jr. high students said, "I like school dress because it makes it easy in the mornings to get ready, especially when it is time to do the laundry." Another parent, Jeff Swiatek, said, "It makes the school look nice, and no one stands out of order."

Ms. Combs, a Jr. high teacher, said, "I love standardize dress because it makes the school look more professional and creates a culture of high expectations. It teaches kids that details are important. I also like school dress because it models Christian modesty; this is especially important because what is most fashionable in our culture does not always

reflect Christian modesty." On the other hand, Mr. Rincker another Jr. high teacher, said, "I think that every class should have a different theme of school dress."

Good Shepherd didn't always have standardize dress. Mr. Mayhew, the principal said, "In 1997 Mr. Brandt, the principal at Good Shepherd, was looking to have uniforms. We had students take a vote, and the turnout was 50/50. They chose not to do school uniforms. When I became principal, I took it to the (school) board. It changed to standardize dress, and you could purchase clothes from any store. Some parents complained that it was too expensive, so we made a resale shop. This school dress helped students not to judge others. This also made the school look nicer."

Whatever your thoughts are about standardize school dress, it doesn't look like the dress code will change anytime soon. If you have any questions or comments about Good Shepherd's current dress code, please let Mr. Mayhew or our school board members hear your thoughts.

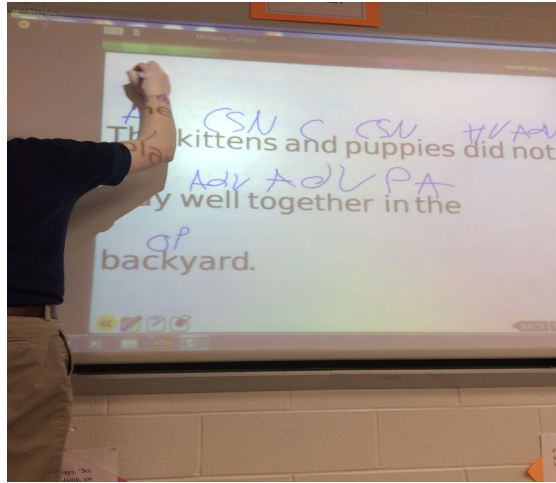
New English Curriculum

By: Sam Christian

Good Shepherd has adopted a new English curriculum for grades second through eighth this year. The new curriculum is called Shurley English. Shurley teaches differently than the previous Good Shepherd English curriculums. This English program uses jingles to help the students learn and remember the parts of speech. It also uses daily repetition activities, so students are less likely to forget a concept or skill.

Different students have different personalities, and some like Shurley while others don't. It may depend on their age or it may just be them. Jonah Christian a third grade student says, "No, I don't like Shurley English. I think the jingles are annoying."

Other students enjoy Shurley English very much. Hannah Ritter, an eighth grade student said, "Yes, it makes you learn whether you want to or not, and I probably won't



A Student Classifying a Sentence on the Activboard

ever forget the jingles. I also like the 'fun sheets' (daily homework worksheets)."

A typical Shurley English class goes like this: students enter the classroom and take their seats; then the teacher plays the jingles (the sentence jingle, the verb jingle, the adverb jingle, etc.) as the students sing along; after that, the teacher selects a student to write the sample sentences on the Activboard as the class verbally classifies the sentences together; the student

sits down, and the new lesson begins; after the lesson, a practice worksheet is handed out, and students work in small groups to complete the practice sheet.

Shurley English also encourages students to write daily. If the students aren't working on a formal writing assignment, then they are journaling. The daily writing gives students a chance to

practice the grammar they are learning.

English is a very important class because it is the language used all over the world. Students need to speak and write well if they want to get a good job. Good Shepherd believes this curriculum is the best way to prepare students for their future jobs.

"Yes, it makes you learn whether you want to or not, and I probably won't ever forget the jingles."

—Hannah Ritter

Jr. High Mentoring Program

By: Jenae Wright

A few years ago, Good Shepherd started a Jr. High Mentoring Program. The Jr. High Mentoring Program provides an opportunity for students to build relationships with each other and to practice leadership skills.

This program pairs one eighth grader and one seventh grader together. The idea is that the partners will spend more time together than they usually would and learn from each other. In the beginning of the year, the eighth grade student is supposed to mentor the seventh grade student who is new to the Jr. High and its rules

and procedures. As the year goes on, both students are supposed to encourage one another to make good decisions and to take opportunities to lead other students by example. "The purpose of the Jr. High Mentoring Program is to get the Jr. High students to bond, and the eighth graders to mentor the seventh graders," says Mr. Mayhew, the principal of Good Shepherd.

Every Wednesday the people who were paired up together, sit across from each other at lunch and talk to each other. Additionally, every Monday, each Jr. High home-

room has a religion/mentoring class, which focuses on Bible study and ways to live as a Christian in today's world.

The Jr. High Mentoring Program has many pros and cons. Khushi Jariwala, a seventh grader at Good Shepherd, thinks it is beneficial to the Jr. High. "The program helps the students become good leaders by helping others," she said. However, Justin Wright, an eighth grade student, said, "No, the program is not benefiting the Jr. High because some students do not take the program seriously enough."

Jr. High Mentoring Program (continued)

By: Jenae Wright

Mr. Voss and Mr. Rincker, two Jr. High teachers, think that the program is benefiting the students. "The program helps the seventh and eighth graders' leadership skills, and the seventh graders will have an easier transition into the eighth grade." said Mr. Voss.

"It allows the seventh graders to see what it is like to be an eighth grader." said Mr. Rincker.

The Jr. High Mentoring Program is a new way for the Jr. High students to build relationships with each other and develop their character. Hopefully, the Jr. High students will learn something from each other, continue to

develop their leadership skills, and spend even more time together.



Jr. High Students Eating with Their Mentor Partner.

Good Shepherd Can Keep the Youth Fit!

By: Molly Smith

*"I think it is important for kids to exercise, to develop strong muscles and bones for health and prevention of injuries."
—Mrs. Bobbi Overby*

For kids fighting obesity and those who struggle with a lack of exercise, having an exercise program after school at Good Shepherd would be a good opportunity for these students to get exercise, especially if they are not involved in an organized sport or other physical activity.

Students who don't do sports but want to stay in shape could go in after school two or three times a week to get some exercise. This would be a great program for our school to have to give these students the exercise and motivation they need. This program would be optional for all stu-

dents. The program would be made more fun and interesting by mixing it up a bit. There would be sessions for about two months focusing on a particular area of fitness. One



Jr. High Students Demonstrating Their Enthusiasm for Physical Fitness

session could be yoga, another cardio vascular, or running, and so on. Ms. Combs, one who values good health, and a teacher at Good Shepherd said, "I think a balance of strength training and cardio exercises

are important for the kids at this school." Bobbi Overby, a Good Shepherd parent, volleyball coach, physical therapy assistant, and fitness fanatic said, "I think it is important for kids to exercise, to develop strong muscles and bones for health and prevention of injuries."

This program would very much help fight childhood obesity and promote a healthier lifestyle. The students of Good Shepherd would greatly benefit from this! If you are interested in getting a program like this started at Good Shepherd, talk to Mr. Mayhew and the school board members!

Baseball, Volleyball, Cross Country, but Where's Soccer?

By: Sydney Sommer

Presently, Good Shepherd does not offer soccer to their students in the fall. Good Shepherd's principal, Mr. Robert Mayhew, was asked a few questions on this topic. When asked why our school does not have soccer, he replied, "The Lutheran Conference does not offer soccer, but they do offer the following sports: baseball, volleyball, cross country, cheerleading, basketball, and track."

Mr. Mayhew also stated that when the school first started in the 1980's, Good Shepherd had a soccer team, but the student body wanted to have something different. He also said that if we get soccer back, it will take students away from other sports to play soccer instead.

When asked what it would take for Good Shepherd to get soccer back, Mr. Mayhew answered, "I do not see Good Shepherd having a soccer team

in the future. It all comes down to soccer not being a Lutheran Conference sport."

The students of Good

Olivia Gray, an eighth grade student at Good Shepherd, said, "I think we should have soccer at our school because it is a fun sport that can keep you in shape." Olivia said she would personally not play soccer, but she would encourage others to play because it is a healthy form of exercise.

Will Martin, also an eighth grade student at Good Shepherd, said we should offer soccer, "Because soccer is sick." He also said that he would play soccer

and would encourage others to play, "...if they are good."

Many students at Good Shepherd would like to have soccer at our school. If Good Shepherd would decide to have a soccer team in the future, they would definitely be able to have one with all the people who want soccer at our school.



Students Playing Soccer at Recess

Shepherd would like that to change, though. Khushi Jarimala, a seventh grader at Good Shepherd, said, "Yes, I think Good Shepherd should have a soccer team. We need to have more sports, and it would be great for students to try out more (extra) curricular activities." Trevor Pickerell, another seventh grade student, said, "Yes, we should have a team. I like soccer, and a lot of other schools have it."

"I think we should have soccer at our school because it is a fun sport that can keep you in shape."

—Olivia Gray

Boys Volleyball

By: Will Martin

Good Shepherd has a variety of different activities. Good Shepherd, however, doesn't have a boys volleyball team. It has always had a girls volleyball team, but never a boys volleyball team.

"It would be difficult to fit it in with other sports throughout the season," says Good Shepherd's Principal Mr. Mayhew. Another issue would be finding the student



A Disappointed Potential Volleyball Player

boys who are willing to play the sport through the entire season. Mr. Mayhew also responded saying, "Many

schools around here don't have boys volleyball teams; it would be hard trying to find schools to play."

This year Good Shepherd couldn't have a boys team, but maybe in the future Good Shepherd will add boys volleyball as one of their athletic activities.

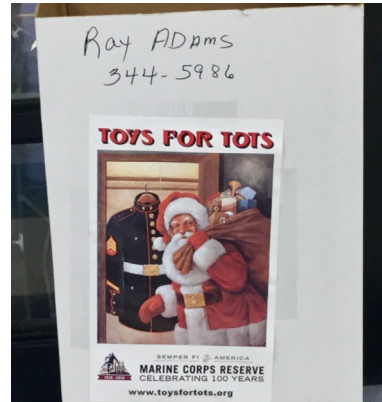
Toys for Tots

By: Kyle Chambers

Good Shepherd participated in the Toys for Tots program held by our Toys for Tots volunteer, Ray Adams this year. Toys for Tots is a program where toys are collected and taken by Marines to houses in St. Clair and Madison County to underprivileged kids. The object of Toys for Tots is to let underprivileged kids be happy on Christmas day.

This was Good Shepherd's sixth year of participating in the Toys for Tots program. Good Shepherd's drive started on November 2, and it ended on

December 9. There was a donation box upstairs by the



lobby and one downstairs by the first grade classes, and Good Shepherd received a total of 175 do-

nated toys. The only rule was that the toys had to be new and unwrapped.

Second grader Keegan said, "I brought two toys, and it made me very happy that I got to donate."

Fourth grader Addi said, "I brought one toy, and I am happy".

You should all donate to the Toys for Tots program in the future because you know you won't be the only one smiling on Christmas morning.

Celebrating the Coming of Christ

By: Eli Lingafelter

This year, like every year, Good Shepherd Lutheran School will have class Christmas parties. This will take place on December 21, 2016.

The parties are to celebrate the coming of Christ. Every class has a different country and will do different things from that country to celebrate Christmas.

Mrs. Lingafelter and Mrs. Rincker are doing England. In addition, they will be going caroling at local seniors homes. It is a tradition in England to go caroling at Christmas. They also will be hanging construction paper crafts of Christmas carolers in the hallway. Andrew Lingafelter says, "I look forward to the party every day."



Mrs. Lingafelter's English Inspired Christmas Tree

is a complete list: 1st does Sweden, 2nd does England, 3rd does Germany, 4th does Mexico, 5th grade does France, 6th grade does Japan, Ms. Combs does Switzerland, Mr. Rincker does Italy, and Mr. Voss does Belgium.

Parents should always look to see if the teachers need help driving to the caroling or if teachers need help at parties. If you're wondering what country your child's class does, here

"I look forward to the party everyday!"

—Andrew Lingafelter

Good Shepherd Christmas Concert

By: Beau Swiatek

Good Shepherd

hosted a Christmas concert on December 13th at 7 o'clock. It was held in the Good Shepherd sanctuary, and was performed by the students of Good Shepherd.

Every year, the students from Good Shepherd perform in a musical concert. Mr. Mayhew, our school principal said, "It is a nice tribute to our Lord and

Savior because we come together and worship him in

band director said, "It gives the students a professional

performance experience, and a timeline for learning the music at their best. It also gives them the chance to share their music, which is a gift from God, with their families, friends, and even people they have never met."

We hope you enjoyed Good Shepherd's celebration of Jesus and his birth on December 13th. We hope the performance

left you feeling filled with the Christmas spirit.



Mr. Stegman Directing the Band During the Concert

song."

Mr. Stegman, our

"It's a nice tribute to our Lord and Savior because we come together and worship him in song."

—Mr. Mayhew

The Band Triumphs

By: MaryAnn Rainey

A very difficult song, "Celtic Carol", was played by the 5th through 8th grade band during the Christmas Concert on Tuesday, December 13, 2016, in the church.

Mr. Stegman, the choir and band director, thought that the band was ready for it and that, if they practiced, it will be the best concert they have ever done.

Mr. Stegman said, "We are consistently making progress."

Beau, a seventh grade trombone player, said, "I like the song and it is an appropriate song for the concert. It might be hard for the fifth graders, but if we all practice, we will get it."

Most of the band members enjoyed this song,



Fifth Through Eighth Grade Band Students Practicing for the Concert

but Jordan, a sixth grader said, "I don't like it because I am a trumpet (player), and we play really high notes really fast."

The first time the entire band played Celtic Carol, the seventh graders didn't think that the fifth

graders could get it because the seventh graders could barely get through two measures of the song without messing up. Awhile later, the whole band could play at least half of it. That was a month from the concert.

The actual performance went incredibly well. This was a great accomplishment for everyone and most of the students were very excited to play "Celtic Carol" in the Christmas Concert.

What Do Good Shepherd Students Want for Christmas?

By: Cameron Bell

Christmas time is full of joy and gifts. Many students want many different things for Christmas from clothes, shoes, games, toys, to money. After interviewing students from each Jr. High homeroom, it's clear students have a pricey Christmas list this year.

Matthew Hartman, a seventh grader in Mr. Voss's homeroom, says, "I want a Cardinal Sweatshirt and a Puerto Rico hat for

Christmas."

While Jared Christopher, an eighth grader in Mr. Rinker's homeroom, wants an Xbox1 and money for Christmas.

Lastly, Carson Chenault, a seventh grader in Ms. Combs's homeroom, says, "I want a new phone and shoes for Christmas."

After all of the interviews, it's clear that technology and clothes are the most popular gifts this

Christmas season.

First Grade Thanksgiving Feast

By: Declan Graney

The First Grade Thanksgiving Feast was located in the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Basement. It started at 11:00 am and ended around 1:00 pm on November 22, 2016..

The First Grade Thanksgiving Feast is a way to teach young children, like the first graders, what the meaning of Thanksgiving is. They get to eat food and sing a song to their parents who attend the feast.

Mrs. Robinson, the First Grade teacher said, "The First Grade Thanksgiving Feast was only a week away and the first graders memorized

their parts, and all they needed then was their costumes."



First Grade Students Performing for Their Guests

Former First Grader, Liam Graney says, "My favorite part was making the turkey decorations and eating the yummy food."

"My favorite part was making the turkey decorations and eating the yummy food."
—Liam Graney

Good Shepherd's Biggest Fundraiser

By: Noah Carder

The Auction is Good Shepherd's biggest fundraiser. Mr. Mayhew says that parents and faculty help with the auction. This year's Good Shepherd Auction will be held at Good Shepherd on March 18.

Good Shepherd needs to have an annual auction so the school can have things that aren't in the budget; such as basketball hoops, playgrounds, the gym floor, etcetera.

How does Good Shepherd get things for the auction? They ask for donations from businesses, such as services and items.

Mr. Mayhew says, "It brings people together to state a cause of why we're raising money."

Good Shepherd would not have many of the things they have if it weren't for this fundraiser. The auction has made it possible for the

students to have many privileges that other schools don't have.



Basketball Hoops Purchased with Last Year's Auction Donations

The auction also wouldn't be possible without the parents and faculty helping, either. Faculty member, Mrs.

Cheryl Schnicker, helps with advertising for the auction on social media, invitations, table reservations, and finance help. That is just one example of how faculty and parents help with the auction.

Be sure to save the date for this year's school auction! Good Shepherd needs your support so that it can continue to be a great place for kids to grow!

"It brings people together to state a cause of why we're raising money."

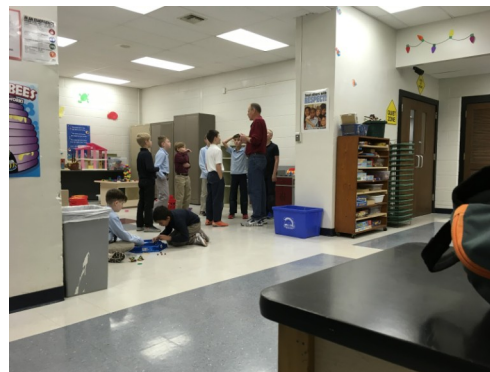
—Mr. Mayhew

The New TRACKS Director

By: Ryan Pineda

The Good Shepherd TRACKS program got a new Director who has been here since August 2016. His name is Dave Bohler. He previously worked at a daycare, and he also has a son who attends Good Shepherd in the eighth grade. Mr. Dave is in charge of this before and after school care program, and he also manages Jordan Armbruster and Bella Thompson, who take care of the students before and after school.

The TRACKS program is where all the before and after



Mr. Dave Bohler Interacting with the Students

school action happens. Miss Jordan was asked how Mr. Dave has improved the Tracks program. She said, "The kids love him, and there is a decrease in bad behavior."

I interviewed Mr. Dave about his new position as the TRACKS director, and here's what he had to say, "The children of Good Shepherd are a joy to be around and interesting to be around." His favorite part of the job is seeing the enthusiasm the kids have for one another as they play and interact. Last of all he said, "I would never be able to do my job without Jordan Armbruster and Bella Thompson."

New Student Teacher

By: Sidney Polacek

Miss Thaelke has been the second grade student teacher at Good Shepherd since the beginning of the school year. She was being mentored by one of the second grade teachers, Mrs. Rincker. She also was observing all grade levels for her last few days of student teaching here.

She was going to teach in Indiana, but because she went to college in Illinois, she worked in an Illinois school. She interacted daily with the second graders, but on some days more than others.

“She slowly worked into it by teaching one subject a day then moving to half days, and then she had twenty consecutive days where she had full control of the class-



Miss Thaelke Standing outside G.S. Church

room,” said Mrs. Rincker. While having control of the class, she was able to learn a lot about teaching at Good Shepherd.

One of the reasons she chose Good Shepherd is because, “My aunt and uncle live here, and I like to live by family,” said Miss Thaelke.

Miss Thaelke has several hobbies. She loves to sing, play the piano and violin, read, and watch shows on her computer.

Sadly, her last day was December 7, 2016. She will be missed, but the students and staff at Good Shepherd are praying God blesses her career ahead.



About Shepherd's Staff Writers

This edition of *Shepherd's Staff* was written, edited and published by Good Shepherd Lutheran School's Journalism 101 class, which is composed of seventh and eighth grade students. The newspaper is a culminating project of this quarter-long course. During this class, students analyzed many local and national news articles. They learned the key components of a news story, the importance of a good lead, and the value of citizen interviews.

Students were involved in every step of producing and publishing this newspaper. In addition to writing the stories, they also determined the newspaper layout and the arrangement of the articles.