

# Κατανῶμεν Let us consider...

## Paying Attention

by Esther Vandiver

**“Let’s pay attention!”**

*“Could you give that your personal attention?”*

**“LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, COULD I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE?”**

**“be attentive, that you may gain insight...”** Proverbs 4:1b (ESV)

Paying attention is an indispensable habit and life skill—and it is practiced or abandoned in every class, job, interaction, or thought. It is a necessary ingredient in loving God, in prayer, in meditation, in obedience to Christ, and in loving our fellowman as Christ loved us. It is the principal tool in creativity, the primary attribute of intellect, the chief agent in flourishing relationships. The habit of patient attentiveness is so important that to learn it is of more value than the mere facts of any subject—as worthy as they may be. A genuine effort of attention to a worthy and appropriate focal point is never wasted: “The solution of a geometry problem does not in itself constitute a precious gift, but...it is the image of something precious. Being a little fragment of particular truth, it is a pure image of the unique, eternal, and living Truth, the very Truth that once in a human voice declared: ‘I am the Truth.’”<sup>1</sup> True attention promotes a spiritual, as

*Continued on page 2...*

### Proverbs 4:1-2 (ESV)

Hear, O sons, a father’s instruction, and be attentive, that you may gain insight, for I give you good precepts; do not forsake my teaching.



The mission of Grace Classical Academy is to provide an education designed to help our children know the love, grace, truth and holiness of our glorious God and, from this understanding, strive for excellence in knowledge, wisdom and service.

#### Inside this issue:

Paying Attention...continued	2
Paying Attention...continued	3
Student Writing	4
Meet Our Staff & Teachers	4
Staff Birthdays	4
A Blessing or a Curse?	5
George Mueller, a Play	6

**Continued from pg. 1**

well as an intellectual, growth. No matter how quickly we are able to access information in this age of instant availability, understanding and wisdom are not gained by the push of a button, nor are they responsive to the beck and call of any of our high-speed efforts. The habit of attention is grown in the garden of life by purposely planting it, weeding it, and patiently waiting for God to miraculously bring the increase.

The first duty, then, of a teacher (who is also a student) and a student is to learn that giving attention in order to discover truth is both beautiful and good. Attention (which may look individually different) is not a matter of looking studious, of appearing interested, or working harder, or of merely exercising will power.<sup>2</sup> It has nothing to do with accepting the bribery of honor, good grades, money, material things, or pride. It has everything to do with the joy of holy awareness of truth, goodness, and beauty and is brought about by periods of absorbing facts and living ideas interspersed with periods of relaxation, during which insights may come. This rhythm is as important to learning as inhaling and exhaling is to living. This joy in actual learning is “as indispensable in study as breathing is in running. Where it is lacking there are no real students, but only poor caricatures of apprentices who at the end of their apprenticeship, will not even have a trade.”<sup>3</sup> Where it is present, the student will be fully engaged with the present while simultaneously learning from the past and looking forward to future discoveries. Any student, young or old, who develops this power of attention has gained an invaluable treasure, and, for a lover of God, it becomes a link between himself and God.

Prayer is the ultimate giving of one’s attention to God; meditation is the ultimate giving of one’s attention to the Sword of the Spirit; obedience is the ultimate giving of one’s attention to Christ; loving others is the ultimate giving of one’s attention to our fellowman. And it is precisely in these most crucial applications that all substitutes for true attention are most clearly seen for what they are: deceptive imposters. Jesus calls to us, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”<sup>4</sup> In Mark 4:24, Jesus adds to this command a promise: **“Pay attention to what you hear: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you.”**

**And he said to them, “Pay attention to what you hear: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you.”**

**Mark 4:24  
(ESV)**

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Please e-mail comments and suggestions to [admin@graceclassical.org](mailto:admin@graceclassical.org)

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**Continued from pg. 2**

<sup>1</sup> Simone Wiel. *Waiting for God*, 61.

<sup>2</sup> Will power (self in control) is not the same as Biblical self-control which is having one's self controlled by God, without which we are "like a city broken into and left without walls." Proverbs 25:28

<sup>3</sup> Simone Wiel. *Waiting for God*, 62.

**My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; yes if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity, guarding the paths of justice and watching over the ways of his saints. Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path; for wisdom will come into your heart and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; discretion will watch over you, understanding will guard you, delivering you from the way of evil, from men of perverted speech... Proverbs 2:1-12 (ESV)**



## **What Does it Mean to Pay Attention?**

**by Joshua Isbell for Mrs. Vandiver's 8th Grade Writing Class**

Attentiveness is a lifelong attribute with which you will begin to gain knowledge through listening and understanding and to benefit from subjects that you were not previously interested in. Attentiveness is the act of the mind in which you not only understand the surface of a subject but also the discrete underlying meanings. To pay attention, your mind must not be preoccupied with distractions. When you begin to comprehend subjects and understand underlying meanings, you will know that you have started to pay attention.

## Meet Our Teachers



### Mrs. Denise Burrell

Mrs. Denise Burrell has been part of the teaching staff at GCA since January 2002. In February 2011, she added the role of director of elementary teacher development to her teaching duties. Besides teaching 6th grade during the mornings,

Mrs. Burrell now works with other teachers at GCA to improve classroom management and teaching techniques.

Before coming to GCA, Mrs. Burrell taught special education for kindergarten—8th grade in a few different school districts in the Kansas City metro area and in Springfield. She received her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Missouri State University and her master's degree in special education from Drury University. Mrs. Burrell grew up in Festus, Missouri, and met her husband, Don, through a Christian campus ministry while at MSU. They have a son, Brooks, who graduated from GCA in 2010 and is now a junior at MSU. Their daughter, Claire, is a freshman at GCA.

Mrs. Burrell began playing the cello a year ago in addition to already playing the piano. She loves to cook and is enjoying the adventure of learning to cook gluten-free. Her other hobbies include a variety of outdoor activities such as hiking, canoeing and riding bicycles. She enjoys teaching because every day is different because of the students' personalities and the dynamic of each class is different. She loves teaching 6th grade because the students are still very respectful but can also interact on a more adult-like level. Best of all, they get her silly humor!

### Mrs. Lisa Loyd



Mrs. Lisa Loyd is enjoying her 4th year of teaching at GCA. She teaches math, science, reading and writing to the 5th grade and also teaches Algebra I to the 9th grade.

Mrs. Loyd grew up having the unique experience of living all over the world. Her father worked as an engineer and her family lived in Canada, New Guinea, France, Australia, and Indonesia: her favorite because of the beauty, being on the ocean, and the hiking available. Mrs. Loyd did live in the United States during her 5th grade year and then moved back to the U.S. when she was 17 years old.

Upon returning to the United States, Mrs. Loyd's family lived in California. She studied early childhood education at Ohlone College and then studied electronics and appliance repair at Polytech Institute in Santa Clara. Mrs. Loyd worked for Sears for several years and then owned a business before coming to GCA.

Mrs. Loyd and her husband, Jeffrey, came to the Springfield area in 1992. They have 5 children and 3 grandchildren. Mrs. Loyd has taught children's church for years and enjoys working with kids. She loves math and science. She likes spending time outside and recently hiked to the bottom of the Grand Canyon and camped for several days. Mrs. Loyd also enjoys sports and reading mysteries and science publications.

## Staff Birthdays!!

### February

February 3 - Coby Cullins  
February 3 - Esther Vandiver  
February 7 - Jeff Cymbaluk

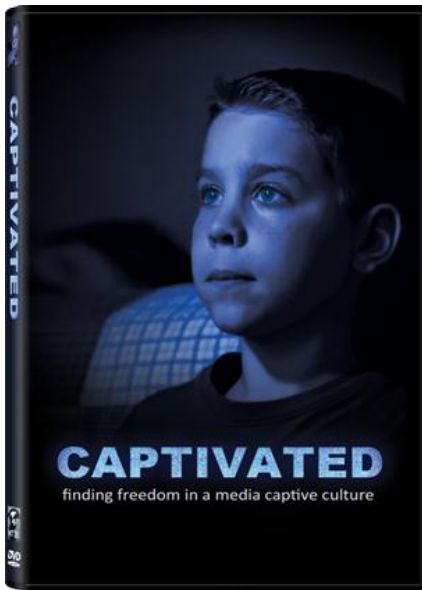
### March

March 1 - Larry Larsen  
March 1 - Lonnie Vandiver  
March 4 - Clayton Pearlstein  
March 23 - Gary Stafford  
March 26 - Kim Deren



### April

April 3 - Matthew Groves  
April 5 - Christine Gillis  
April 7 - Gil Flores  
April 9 - Terry Flores  
April 14 - Cheryl Vandiver  
April 15 - James Bradley



[www.captivatedthemovie.com](http://www.captivatedthemovie.com)  
[www.mediatalk101.org](http://www.mediatalk101.org)

## A Blessing or a Curse?

Recently, a DVD came into our hands entitled, *CAPTIVATED: finding freedom in a media captive culture*. In this documentary, medical professionals with expertise in brain development are interviewed along with media experts, church leaders and others. Much of what is said on the DVD fits trends that we are seeing in the culture around us as well as with our students at GCA.

Because of our concern for our students and because of the relevance of the *CAPTIVATED* message, I would like to challenge each of our families from K4 to the 12th grade to watch the documentary together and make an honest evaluation of how technology is impacting the lives of your family members.

The GCA library has received ten copies of the DVD that may be checked out.

Technology is not inherently evil. But, like many other things, it is a good servant but a diabolical master. The LORD says in Isaiah 21:6, "Go, set a watchman; let him announce what he sees." May we as God's people not walk lockstep with the culture but rather courageously walk in his gracious counsel.

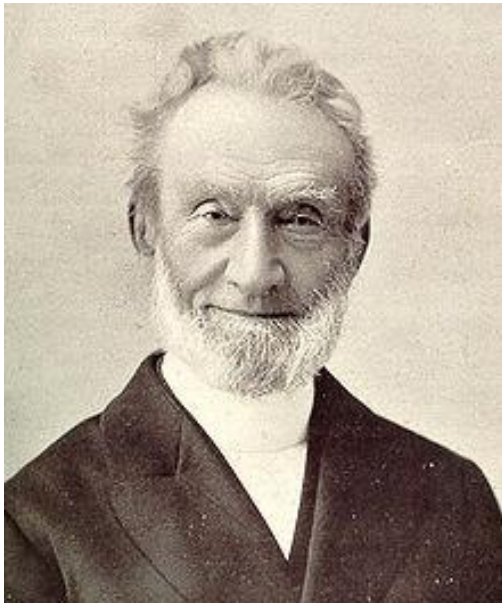
—Mr. V

**The imagination seeks out the ideal, and beholds its beauty. In doing so it penetrates farther to the truth than does the sloth of cynicism. Anyone may see a wart or a mole; faults abound in every man; the grime of life tarnishes us all. But the imagination forgives the blemish and attempts to see beneath the grime.**

**—Anthony Esolen, *Ten Ways to Destroy the Imagination of Your Child***



**COMING SOON!**  
**George Mueller, a Play**  
 presented by the GCA Drama Class  
**April 12 & 13**



*Photo from Wikipedia.*

On Thursday and Friday, April 12 and 13, 2012, the GCA high school drama class will be presenting an original work entitled "George Mueller, a Play." The drama will be in conjunction with the elementary spring concert, making it essentially an all-school production.

George Mueller was a Christian evangelist and missionary who cared for more than 10,000 orphans during his lifetime. He also established over 100 schools that offered Christian education. He was director of the Ashley Down orphanage in Bristol, England.

George Mueller had an extraordinary faith and prayer life. He spent hours in prayer and reading Scripture.

You won't want to miss this GCA original production!

**Henry T. Blackaby and Claude V. King had this to say about George Mueller in their book *Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God*,**

George Mueller was a pastor in England during the nineteenth century. He was concerned that God's people had become very discouraged. They no longer looked for God to do anything unusual. They no longer trusted God to answer prayers. They had so little faith.

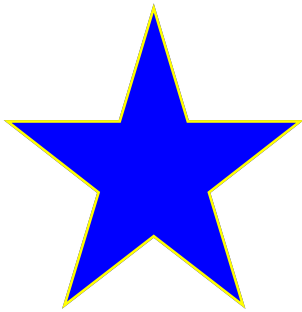
God began to lead George to pray. George's prayers were for God to lead him to a work that could only be explained by the people as an act of God. George wanted the people to learn their God was a faithful, prayer-answering God. He came upon the verse in Psalm 81:10, "Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it." God began to lead George in a walk of faith that became an outstanding testimony to all who hear of his story.



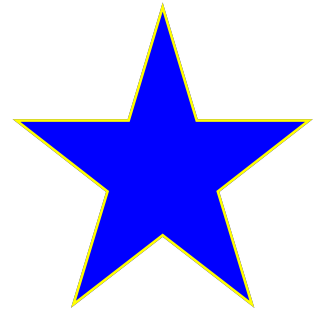
Our “gifted” librarian reading to the 2nd grade



Luke Garrison, Abby Meadows, and Tanner Talley enjoy learning about volcanoes



2nd grade mathematicians manipulating math



The 5th Grade class enjoying a beautiful fall day



Samantha Sellers and Brooke Newhouse writing stories for 5th Grade history



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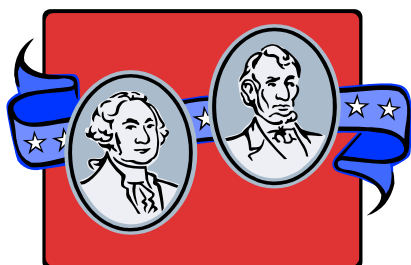
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### ***February 2012***

- 1 Tuition Due
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 17 Mismatch Day
- 20 No School/  
President's Day
- 24 History Day  
(1st-8th grades)  
History Day Open  
House, 6:30 pm



### ***March 2012***

- 1 Tuition Due/Last Day for  
Reenrollment Discount
- 2 **Battle Grammatica  
Playoffs**  
Uniform Order Day
- 8 **High School History Day**
- 9 End of 2nd Quarter
- 11 Daylight Savings Time  
Begins
- 15 **Bowling Party, 6-8 pm**  
**Lighthouse Lanes**
- 16 **High School Etiquette  
Banquet**
- 23 **Dots & Stripes Day**  
**Open House**

### ***April 2012***

- 2 Tuition Due
- 2-3 **Optional Parent/Teacher  
Conferences**  
**Teacher Training**
- 2-9 **No School/Easter Break**
- 8 **Easter Sunday**
- 12-13 **High School Play/  
Elementary Concert**
- 16-19 **SAT Testing**
- 27 **Science Fair**

