



THE SPARTAN SCROLL



PERSEVERENCE

by Madisyn Flores

In the last week before break it is key to show the virtue of perseverance. For Highschool, this means focusing and trying your best on exams. Even though middle school will not take semester finals, students can still practice perseverance in their academics. Just because it is the end of the semester it does not mean you can stop putting effort into your classes. Perseverance can also be practiced by all Spartans by completing the 1,000 Gifts Challenge!

EVENTS ON CAMPUS

Dec. 8

Winter Haus Festival

Dec. 9

6th Grade Drama Performances

Dec. 11 & 12

Art Show

Dec. 18-Jan. 1

Winter Break

Jan. 2-5

Independent Study Week

*Don't forget to bring your project to school on Jan. 8!

SPARTAN JOKE

What country has the most germs?

Germany



ATHLETICS RECAP

by Rayah Gentry

Coming out of Fall Break, our Spartan Basketball teams have shown both dedication and perseverance on the court. Three exciting games started off the week. Middle School Girls and Boys both played against Idea Burke and the HS Boys played against Vanguard Knights. The Middle School Girls secured a victory 14-10. The boys fell a few points short with a score of 33-38 and the HS boys ended the night with an amazing performance despite a 20-35 loss. The HS girls were back on the court Wednesday as they bravely faced off Great Hearts Forest Heights and showed extreme grit. Unfortunately, their spirit was not enough to secure a victory with a final score of 16-39. The HS boys, however, played against Harmony SA and used their recent loss to burn fire in their hearts resulting in a win of 36-23. The week ended with 3 victories at Home. The MS girls defeated KIPP Camino with a final score of 14-10. The MS boys also walked away with a win of 48-30 and the HS Girls secured a win against IDEA Converse with a final score of 21-17. The Spartan fans came out dressed in their cozy pajama pants and favorite ugly sweaters which gave our teams just the Spartan Spirit they needed to secure victories at home. Make sure to come out and support our basketball teams!

INQUIRY CORNER

by Cassy Rodriguez and Keilani Trejo

The biggest question floating around campus presently at Great Hearts Western Hills is, "Why do we do IXL?" There are many scholars who agree with the purpose of IXL and there are some who find IXL disagreeable. These students state that IXL prevents them from getting their homework completed during Lyceum. However, those who agree with IXL state that it gives them more math practice for STAAR. We decided to find the answer to the questions, "Why do we do IXL?" We discovered the answer is quite simple. In an interview with Ms. Storey we learned that the purpose of IXL was to improve math scores. IXL does this by personalizing a plan to help scholar's individual needs. The diagnostic test that scholars took recently is mean to "diagnose" the struggles a scholar would need to improve on in mathematics. This program also fills any gaps of knowledge a scholar may be missing. Now you may be wondering, "Where did the idea of IXL come from?" It began when Ms. Keffer visited a charter school that used a math program that allowed their students to achieve great math scores. Due to GHWH overall school's interim STAAR scores being lower than expected, IXL would be a great tool to help fill the gaps of math skills. Scholars will now know that the purpose of IXL is to diagnose the gaps of students, improve these math skills, and then challenge scholars at GHWH.

HAPPENINGS ON CAMPUS

REMINDERS

Don't leave anything behind at Winter Break! Be sure to check the Lost & Found



WHY DO WE DO THAT?

By Kekoa Somera & Melody Martinez

Why do we have the Houses of Narnia and Middle Earth? Many new Great Hearts Western Hills scholars ask this question as soon as they see the banners in the hallway. Here is our opportunity to answer this question! Mr. McKee, a Biology and 8th grade Literature teacher, answered this question for the Spartan Scroll. The GHWH House System was created to join our scholars and have them acknowledge each other. This creates great conversation among our scholars and helps get to know one another. Friendships and connections are created among our students. Another reason for the House Systems is competition. Competition helps our scholars work together in House games and gives everyone a chance to show both Spartan pride AND House pride as each House works to earn points that will go towards the House Cup that is given at the end of the year.

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

by Eliana Salas

I recently sat down with Mrs. Dionne who is the Dean of Houses and a 6th grade Literature teacher to ask her a few questions about what Perseverance means to her.

- What does the word perseverance mean to you?
 - *"Perseverance means trying again after you fail. Recognizing failure is part of the growth process."*
- How do you use perseverance in and out of the classroom?
 - *"Patience and Perseverance go hand and hand as a teacher. I need to be patient and show my students how to persevere through struggles and frustration. "*
- How do you encourage your students to persevere when struggling to turn in assignments on time?
 - *"I try to set an example by getting work back to them quickly. This shows them I am just as dedicated to their work as they are."*
- How do you spread perseverance to students?
 - *"I try to show them that it is okay to make mistakes and learn from them. I encourage them to keep trying when things are hard."*
- What do you do to include perseverance throughout your day?
 - *"I remind myself that 'done is better than perfection'. When I have a lot to do - I always start with the hardest thing first."*

HOUSE SPIRIT



HOUSE NEWS

Reepicheep

HOUSE STANDING: 1ST PLACE

By Leah Bourne

Sometimes our House culture can do things to help us with virtue in real life. For instance, Olivia Nitschke an 8th grade Reepicheeps says, "Reepicheep helps me persevere through its House encouragement. House Culture motivates me to reach for my goals in a more determined prospect." Just like Olivia, you may also find that your House helps you persevere. It's just up to you to find out how!

Baggins

HOUSE STANDING: 2ND PLACE

By Elsie Walter

Olayinka, an 8th grade Baggins, shows perseverance by helping people when they need it most. She always works to do the right thing even when not being watched. She works hard to participate in class. Jacob, also a 8th grade Baggins, shows the virtue of perseverance through his kindness to others. He works to help others even when they are not counting on him.

Aliyah, a 7th grade Baggins, shows perseverance both on the court and classroom. She is always helpful and does the right thing - even when it is a difficult task. Derek, also a 7th grade Baggins, showed perseverance recently when he broke his arm. Even though school became difficult with having to find new ways to do simple things such as writing or carrying his books - he persevered.

Oakenshield

HOUSE STANDING: 3RD PLACE

By Leah Bourne

When asked, "What does perseverance mean to you?" Mr. Chisholm responded by saying, "Perseverance is working to a goal. Examples here at school could be a test or quiz. If the reason is not worthy of my time then I have a difficult time putting in an effort. Oakenshield builds an essence of perseverance within itself. When Thorin's shield breaks while fight the Orks, he picks up a log and keeps fighting. This example builds the House of Oakenshield and the perseverance to fight for the ultimate goal- The House Cup!"

Pevensies

HOUSE STANDING: 4TH PLACE

Pevensies 8th grader, Caylah Via, says that by using perseverance during house events can help House Pevensies move out of the 4th place position.

"Knowing we have won the House Cup before shows it is possible we can still win," she said. Caylah continued by sharing, "It's all a matter of whether or not we learn from our losses. Showing that when faced with difficulty, everyone can benefit from perseverance." She concluded with the following encouragement to her House, "Even though we are in 4th place, I think with a few victories and teamwork - we could start to move up in standings!"