



OH MY GRACE!



STUDENT EDITION, JANUARY 2024

Grace Christian School (hereinafter, this is called "GCS") is a private school located in Prince Edward Island, Canada which holds students in kindergarten to high school. GCS and St. Hilda's School, our school, have had relationships as schools educating students based on Protestant spirit. We three had been studying at GCS for 5 months as members of a studying abroad program organized by the two schools. They have similar features such as connections with communities and the churches, and contributions to them.

Sharing Happiness Through Volunteering



Clean-up around Victoria Park in Prince Edward Island, Canada Photo by Neil Thompson

Grace Christian School, a school in Prince Edward Island, Canada encourages students to do volunteer work, and it is graded as one of the assignments in their Christian Ethics class. During the class, students learn about Jesus Christ by using the Bible. All Grades between 7-12 students need to volunteer for 35 hours each school year, but most students exceed the requirement. They can do any sort of volunteering job they want to do. Some sort of volunteer examples are cleaning the school and the

city, supporting GCS fun events, and helping nurseries as babysitters.

Cleaning Up

Some students participate in cleaning. After school, they vacuum and collect garbage in all classrooms. In October 2023, some students cleaned up around Victoria park participating in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award shoreline clean-up challenges. Emily, a participant, said "There were some Tim Horton's paper caps. I know Canadians always drink them." "I thought the place

near the ocean must be dirty, but actually it wasn't. I cleaned up places far from the ocean like the city."

Pancake Breakfast

Other students help with various fun events which are organized by GCS. One example is the pancake breakfast held at the end of October. All students and their families can join, eat as much as they want, chat with many people, and the participation fee of \$5 goes to donations. The students participating as volunteers join the event not only as customers but also as servers. They provide drinks and pancakes to customers. They are allowed to eat pancakes for free. John, a boy, who served for 4 hours commented "I was busy all the time because almost everyone ordered second pancakes, even kids. I'm glad everyone enjoyed eating." Also Claire, a girl, who looked satisfied said "I ate 5 pancakes. I'm too full." The pancake breakfast is one of the

most popular events which GCS holds. The room was crowded with smiling participants.

Babysitters

Some students enjoy helping at nurseries as babysitters. GCS has a nursery for babies at the ages of 0-2, and it is called Wee Knights. Their job is to play with kids and take care of them. Coco, a girl who works there said "This volunteer made me realize how much I like kids and it helps me think about my future." She feels a sense of accomplishment after working with children.

Helping other people as volunteers affects the students in a beneficial way.

By Reina Miike



Poster of Pancake breakfast From Instagram of Grace Christian School


7
JAMAICA MISSION TRIPS


190
SHOE BOXES PACKED


30
DUKE OF EDINBURGH GOLD AWARDS


3,500
STUDENT SERVICE HOURS COMPLETED

DONATION

Donation is not for Reputation

“Casual Day”

GCS is making a strong effort when it comes to the school members being involved with



Donations of supplies to Queen Elizabeth Hospital staff that work in the Emergency Department Photo by Grace Christian School

donations. On some Fridays, the school holds a day called “Casual Day”. On those days, if we pay 2 dollars for donations, we are allowed to wear something more casual, such as hoodies or blue jeans which we normally are not allowed to on a regular school day. This is a really effective way to encourage students to donate because they can wear what they usually cannot at school. This event happens a lot throughout the year, and it only costs 2 dollars per person, so students are

more willing to donate. Also, the school sometimes encourages students to bring canned food which can be preserved for a long time. We donate these items to people in need. Any extra food gets stored at a community fridge or food bank.

Also, school sometimes encourages students to bring packed food which can keep for a long time so we donate to people who need them, and those are going to be stored at a community fridge or food bank.

“Shoebbox Collection”

We also annually join a charity event called “Operation Christmas Child Shoebbox Collection” that involves every single student in school. It is a project where students can fill up shoe boxes with Christmas gifts, such as groceries, money, and toys in order to send them to the Operation Christmas Child CDN. You can decide whether you want

to give that gift to a boy or girl, and you can even write to them as well. In 2023, over 80 shoeboxes were collected thanks to so many people’s cooperation, and it is considered a wonderful way to give people a hand at their time of need. It is also a good opportunity for students in GCS to realize that there are people who cannot afford what they can easily get if they want to and to think about the importance of helping each other. Most of the students willingly take part in this project and enjoy choosing what to give to people who they do not even know. As you might realize, the reason can be considered because they belong to a Christian community which cherishes the teachings of Christianity telling people to help each other. Hopefully these efforts will always be appreciated as long as the spirit of faith continues. Summer, who has kept participating in this program, said “I’m so eager to do this project every year and proud of myself



Donations to the Upper Room from their “Rejoice! Christmas in Song” Photo by Grace Christian School

for contributing to children around the world.”



The logo of Shoe Box Project

“The mission of Operation Christian Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. Through this project, Samaritan's Purse partners with the local church worldwide to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and make disciples of the nations.

By Miu Kamito



A mountain of shoeboxes Photo by Grace Christian School

Home to Communities of All Ages

Grace Baptist Church, the church next to Grace Christian School, is essential to GCS as a Christian school whose goal is to raise awareness about the importance of learning to know God. It is where many communities are based. Here are 3 examples of the communities.

Youth Group

Youth group is a group of students between the ages of 13-18. They gather at GBC every Friday night to learn about Christ through fun activities. Youth leaders plan what activities and games they will be doing every week. When some seasonal events like Halloween and Christmas take place, they offer special activities to celebrate the season. For instance, they can do pumpkin carving and make their own jack-o'-lanterns around Halloween. They can also build gingerbread cookie houses and decorate them with candies and cream in the Christmas season. However, the main purpose of the youth group is to learn about God. It never changes. They always take an hour to sing some songs and worship. It is very inspiring to see young people learning about God



Students at Youth Group
Photo by Waka Takahashi

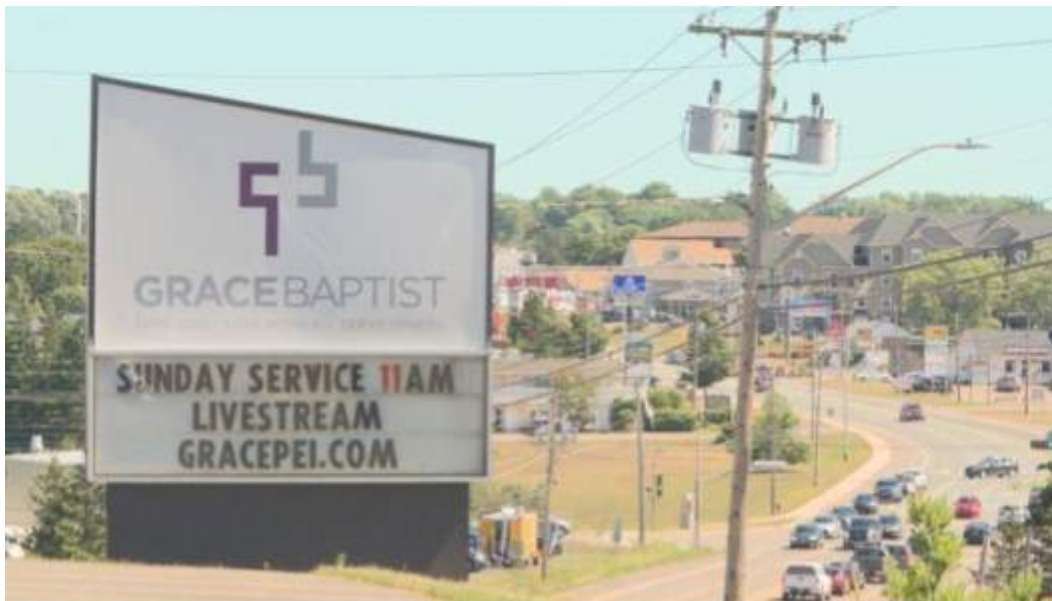
earnestly. The youth group is a great place to acquire knowledge of Christianity.

Kingdom Kids

Kingdom Kids is a kids ministry that kids at the ages of 3 to 12 can participate in. It happens during the Sunday sermon while adults are listening to a pastor. The kids are split into groups based on their ages and do crafts, watch YouTube videos, and sing along to Christian music. Kingdom Kids is a great place for the kids to socialize and develop their relationships with their friends and teachers. They are given an opportunity to learn from each other's perspectives by being involved in the kids ministry. Just like small children, high schoolers at GCS are also important parts of Kingdom Kids. They often volunteer to help teachers prepare and teach their students. It is quite hard to deal with 10 kids at the same time alone, so the students are there to help them.

Titus 2 Saints

Titus 2 Saints is a group of seniors who gather monthly at GBC. Those who are older than 55 years old are invited to the group. They invite guests to be their speakers based on the members' suggestions and listen to them. Singing some hymns, reading the Bible, praying for their needs, and having some snacks are basic activities they do besides interacting with guests. They do not gather in summer. In



The sign of GBC

Photo by Travis Kingston/CBC

fall, they gather at someone's house and enjoy a barbeque and good fellowship. They even go for a field trip in PEI during the late spring. The members of Titus 2 Saints can have a wonderful time learning about God and building great relationships with their friends.

Grace Baptist Church is a home to many different kinds of communities. It is an essential part of the school system and the region.

By Waka Takahashi



A jack-o'-lantern

Photo by Waka Takahashi



Grace Baptist Church

Photo by Grace Baptist Church

Joy To The World



St. Hilda's School Girls Scouts Photo by St.Hilda's School

St. Hilda's School

The writers of this newspaper "OH MY GRACE!" studied abroad in Prince Edward Island, Canada for 5 months last year. Since 2017, Grace Christian School has accepted students from St. Hilda's School every year. Both schools are Christian schools, and they have common features, like volunteering, donation, and close relationships with communities. St. Hilda's School is located in Hatanodai, Tokyo, Japan. Students contribute to many charity activities with the communities. Also, the Girls Scouts in Japan originated in 1920 from St. Hilda's School, having tried to make the relationships between students and communities better.

Volunteering

St.Hilda's school and Shimizudai Elementary School, which is located next to St.Hilda's School, have strong relationships for doing volunteer work.

One example is that the elementary school students have helped to sell handmade crafts at a bazaar at St.Hilda's school. The bazaar is one of the biggest events organized by St.Hilda's school, and all students every fall are excited.

In 2016, the students who belong to the music club of St.Hilda's School showed their special performance to elementary school students.

In 2023, the choir club also joined and sang some songs as the celebrations for the 70th anniversary of Shimizudai Elementary School. Some

students at the elementary school were very impressed by their performance. Sakura, one of the students who watched the performance, said "Their performance was amazing. I want to join that club."

Donation

St. Hilda's School has served others by donating for many years. They have donated to Palestine, Unicef, Australia for its wildfire, and so on. In addition, during Christmas time, the school asks each student to donate as much as they would like. All donated money goes to a nursery home. St. Hilda's School is very eager to donate because it is a Christian school. That is something GCS and the school have in common. Both of the schools cherish the idea of sympathizing with someone in difficult situations and helping

them. That is exactly why they volunteer and donate so often. It is the beauty of Christianity.

Joy To The World

St. Hilda's School has sent many students to GCS since 2017. Every single one of them has learned the spirit of Christianity and are willing to make use of it in the future. The volunteering they experienced made them realize how fulfilling it is to help someone, especially those who are in difficult situations. The lesson they have learned on a small island will definitely change something in their lives and bring joy to the world.

By Reina Miike, Miu Kamito, and Waka Takahashi



A building of St. Hilda's School

Photo by St. Hilda's School

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