Happy Second Semester!
I can hardly believe it: we have completed half of our 2010-11 school year.
This has been a very fast-paced and productive year thus far. Students, faculty and staff have been working hard, and we are growing as a community of learners.
I have been proud to welcome the external community here on our campus where they discover our mission, our diligent students, our talented faculty and supportive staff. Because of events like the Air Force Band concert (October); the 5K Walk/Run, the Fairmount Fling, and the visit of Xerox CEO Ursula Burns (all in November); and the MLK press conference and MLK Day of Service (both in January), hundreds of people from the Greater Philadelphia Area and beyond have come to know more about us and our programs and the people who make it all work.
I know we share a commitment to improving communication, building our community and offering opportunities for everyone to grow and learn. With that in mind, there will be:

**1. Full Staff Meetings**
On Thursday, February 10, I will hold two voluntary staff meetings to share the timeline for our budgeting process, staff reductions, fundraising updates and our 2011-12 calendar.

**2. Open Small Group Meetings**
Again this year, I will host small group sessions for any employee to ask questions, share concerns, and hear what others are thinking. Dates and times in February will be e-mailed to you on Monday.

**3. February 22 In-Service**
The deans and I have planned a day of curriculum development, trainings and discussion. The schedule is still being completed and will be e-mailed to you. Here is a skeletal plan:
- A.M. Instructional Staff
- P.M. Instructional and Residential Staff
- 7:00 P.M. Students Return

**4. Lower School Parent Communication**
In response to a number of questions and concerns, I wrote a letter to Lower School parents clarifying certain issues that I hope will encourage more open and honest communication with Girard parents.

**5. Upper School Academic Dean Search**
We have begun the search process for a new academic dean. Kudos to Kym Clark for filling this job for the current year (as well as serving as Residential Dean). The job description can be found on our Web site. I hope to name the person in the beginning of April, so there can be some transition time this spring.

I realize this is a great deal of information. Thank you for taking the time to carefully read this memo. I look forward to talking with people in small groups throughout this month.

Many thanks!

Autumn
## Looking Ahead

**Tuesday, Feb. 8**  
Boys BB Senior Game*

**Thursday, Feb. 10**  
Girls BB Senior Game*

**Monday, Feb. 21**  
No Classes - Presidents Day

**Tuesday, Feb. 22**  
No Classes - Teacher In-Service  
Tuesday Feb. 22, Students Return at 7:00 p.m.

## Week 4 on the Web Menu

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<th>6</th>
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<th>10</th>
<th>11</th>
<th>12</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3:30 Tour of Founder’s Hall, neighborhood group</td>
<td>6:00 Girls BB @ Bristol</td>
<td>7:00 Girls BB Calvary Christian H</td>
<td>5:30/7:00 Boys* BB Jenkintown H</td>
<td>5:30/7:00 Girls* BB Plumstead H</td>
<td>5:30/7:00 Boys BB @ Bristol</td>
<td>12:00/1:30 Boys BB Calvary Christian H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00 Girls BB @ Calvary</td>
<td>6:00 Girls BB @ Bristol</td>
<td>6:00 Wrestling New Hope H</td>
<td>5:30/7:00 Boys* BB Jenkintown H</td>
<td>5:30/7:00 Girls* BB Plumstead H</td>
<td>5:30/7:00 Boys BB @ Bristol</td>
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## Week 5 on the Web Menu

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<th>19</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5:30/7:00 Girls BB Springfield H</td>
<td>TBA Boys and Girls BB BAL Playoffs</td>
<td>3:45 Wrestling @ Plumstead Christian</td>
<td>TBA Boys and Girls BB BAL Playoffs</td>
<td>TBA Boys and Girls BB BAL Playoffs</td>
<td>5:00 Girls BB @ Calvary</td>
<td>5:30/7:00 Girls* BB Plumstead H</td>
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## Week 1 on the Web Menu

**3:00 Tour of Founder’s Hall, neighborhood group**

**6:00 Girls BB @ Bristol**

**7:00 Girls BB Calvary Christian H**

**5:30/7:00 Boys* BB Jenkintown H**

**Eagles Eye Mobile will be here in March**

The Eagles Eye Mobile is scheduled to be at Girard College March 21 and 22, 2011.

Eagles Youth Partnership, the charitable wing of the Philadelphia Eagles, operates the Eagles Eye Mobile Program in partnership with St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, and other independently contracted local health care professionals, to ensure that all children receive appropriate vision care services in a timely manner. THESE SERVICES ARE PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE; THERE IS NO COST TO THE CHILD OR TO HIS/HER FAMILY.

In addition to providing our students with glasses, the program also collects data, documenting compliance through periodic assessments of whether the students are wearing their glasses in the classroom. This data allows Eagles Eye staff to evaluate the effectiveness of the program and to make improvements.

All students who have failed the Philadelphia school nurse vision screening are referred to receive the Eagles Eye Mobile vision service. The school nurse screenings take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Following these screenings, consent forms are mailed to each parent/guardian so that we can assure our students are able to take advantage of this great opportunity.

If needed, eyeglasses will be provided based on the Eagles Eye Mobile vision screenings, comprehensive eye exams that may involve pupil dilation performed by an optometrist. Each child requiring glasses will receive two pairs.

Girard students participated in the Eagle Eye Mobile program last year, and 66 students received glasses as a result. We look forward to our students' participation in this wonderful program again this year!
Ms. Fountain’s Students Competed in 

Future Cities

Girard students are benefiting from a fascinating club elective called Future City.

Future City is a multidisciplinary, integrated, holistic approach to problem-based learning with computer stimulation. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) education addresses national and state academic content standards. The program is geared toward seventh- and eighth-grade students to team with an engineer-volunteer mentor to create a computer-based and then a three-dimensional model of their vision of a future city.

The Future City Competition is organized under the National Engineers Week Foundation since 1992. Our students competed locally in January, creating a SimCity 4 computer city, doing research, writing, oral presentation and finally producing a 3D model. Their city’s name is Ville de Toussaint.

Students who participating in Future City increase their:

- Logical-thinking skills,
- Problem-solving skills,
- Ability to work in teams,
- Research and technical writing,
- Oral presentation skills,
- Application of coursework to practical problems,
- Technological skills, and
- An awareness of community and business issues on the local and global levels.

Learn more at: www.futurecity.org.

Girard Team Members:

7th graders
Muqtadir I
Iesha B
Jailyn B
Nyjerah B

8th graders
Jihad B
Brandon D
Christopher M
Aaron R
Khalif W
Henry R
Damien J
Meckell S
Israel L
Jaesohn M

PLEASE NOTE: DATES ADJUSTED DUE TO WEATHER
African-American Children’s BOOK PROJECT

Saturday, February 5
1:00-3:00 p.m.
FREE
Open to the Public

Gymnasium of CCP
the Community College of Philadelphia
17th & Spring Garden Street

The Book Fair started out on a cold, frosty day at John Wanamaker department store and is now one of the oldest and largest single-day events for African-American children's books in the country. The success of the program is due to the fact that we offer the best and the brightest from the African-American Children's literary community. Parents, caregivers and educators from the tri-state area are very supportive of the event. They all understand that children who read make more responsible decisions about their lifestyles.

The event is free and open to the public.

Author and illustrators will make presentations from their books; also games, prizes, promotional give-aways and reading resources will be available. A wide selection of African-American books to purchase will be featured at the event.

FEATURETING THE NBC10 READING ROOM.

Student Community Service Project

Many Girard students take community service seriously, and one such student is senior Olayinka L. Olayinka has been collecting school supplies for students in Africa. The first round of supplies have been delivered, as you can see, to a tribe of Masai origin in Loita Hills, Kenya.

Look for information about other student projects in upcoming newsletters.

“My Deeds must be My Life ...” Stephen Girard

Step Girls Shine
from Bridgette Bynum

The Girard College Step Team performed at Temple University in January and received a standing ovation at their talent show.

Track & Field Standouts Going to States
from Richard Leek

For the first time ever, three Girard College boys have qualified for the indoor state track and field championship.

Senior High jumper Hiree P. (6’3”), junior 60-meter hurdler Chris A. (8.46), and sophomore long jumper Khiry T. (21’10”) will all be traveling to Penn State on February 25th and 26th for the State meet!

Go Girard!

Announcement of Staff Change

David Timony has accepted the Upper School Learning Specialist position. He will work with both deans to pace his transition from the Lower School music program to the Upper School.