



GPCS NEWS

Grande Prairie Christian School

Pursuing personal excellence and Christ-like character.

What determines future success?

One of my favorite movies of the last few years was the remake of the western classic, “True Grit”. It is the story of a young girl who enlists a grizzled U.S. Marshal to track down her father’s murderer. She picks this man because she is seeking somebody with “true grit”- a tough, hardened veteran of the Wild West. The twist in movie however; is that the character who most exemplifies “true grit” among all the gun slinging cowboys and outlaws is the young girl herself. The reason I like this movie so much is that it is a fantastic fictional representation of what I (and many researchers) believe to be one of the most important virtues for our young people today, grit.

Grit is described by Angela Duckworth (a leading education researcher) as, “perseverance and passion for long term goals”. This is the tendency to keep working hard at a goal over a long time despite obstacles, failures or weariness. In her research she found that this characteristic in children is a better predictor of future success both in earnings and personal happiness than either IQ or talent. In the Bible there are calls to grit, 1 Corinthians 15:58, and Luke 21:19, and examples of it: Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Mary, Paul, to name just a few.

Duckworth has identified several tips for parents that can help us build grit in our children. Her first suggestion is that we teach our children a “growth mindset”. This simply means that we teach them that success comes our own efforts and not from innate talent. Kids (and adults) who believe that their lot in life is determined by how smart, attractive, tall, rich etc., they are, give up easily when faced with adversity. Those who believe that they control what happens to them in life through hard work, tend to overcome obstacles and not give in to adversity. In short, praise your children for their hard work and effort, not for their innate intelligence, looks or natural ability.

Another suggestion that she has is to encourage risk taking. This doesn’t mean telling your kids to run out into traffic, but it does mean that we challenge them to confront the possibility failure, rejection, or loss in their day to day lives, and meet these possibilities with faith and courage. Instead of allowing your child to miss the day his or her PE class is doing fitness testing with a cough or complaint of a sore leg, instead give them the opportunity to build toughness, courage and resilience. Their result is not important, their character in the face of adversity is.

Finally we need to teach our children that a failure or setback is not the end. They need to learn that successful people often fail more than unsuccessful people- the difference is the successful ones keep trying as long as it takes. Don’t allow your natural protective instincts to rob your children of the opportunity to win their own hard fought triumphs by pushing through minor problems themselves.

The Book of James tells us to,

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (James 1:2-4).

As Christians we need not fear or avoid difficulty in life, in fact we are told to embrace those trials, for we know the outcome that awaits us. Let’s teach our children the same.

P.S. I highly recommend Angela Duckworth’s book: [Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance](#)

Our Society AGM is scheduled for: Nov 7th at 3:45– all parents welcome!

<http://www.gppsd.ab.ca/school/gpchristian>

Sports Page

Dreamer's Lake Cross Country



Dreamer's Lake Slog (x-country run)

We had 19 students from grades 1 – 6 travel to Dreamer's Lake (near Wanham, AB) on a bus with students from a few other schools. The grade 1 – 3 boys and girls ran in races of 1.5 km. The grade 4 – 6 ran 2.0 km. All of our runners represented our school well. Many of them placed in the top 10 in their category.

Junior High Volleyball is well underway.

We had our start-up tournament on Sept 24th/25th. We have two teams of boys and two teams of girls. The teams are all competing very well this year and the skill building is impressive.

The current schedule is available at:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/15wLV5N_FTmv05xup3MjMCKp2WpCpZDCa0dJRtIA8Nfl/edit#gid=185875158

Elementary Triple Ball Tournament

The triple ball tournament for grade 4, 5, & 6 is coming up. The tournament is on Saturday, October 29th. There will be practices after school on Monday the 17th, and Monday the 24th (3:30 – 5:00). There will also be practices at lunch time starting next week.

Running Club

Tuesday after school and Monday/Wednesday run club is continuing (weather permitting). We average about 20 students running at lunch and most of them run about 1 km in the 10 – 15 minutes we have to run.



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Grande Prairie Society for Christian Education

As parents at GPCS you are all members of the G.P. Society for Christian Education. The Society Board is elected by you as members and oversees the Christian aspects of our school as well as the building and school fees. They meet monthly with the school Principal to review on-going issues in these areas. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please contact our Board (info.gpcs.society@telus.net) and they will share with you how you can go about doing that.

Board Members:

President: Jason Forbes

Tyson Hickson

Vice President: Jon Fulcher

Lynne Driedger

Laura Casey

Dallas Wooden

Contact:

Email– info.gpcs.society@telus.net

Correspondence can be dropped off at school office.

Society Bookkeeper: Joy Hawkes

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, Col. 3:23