



APRIL 24, 2012

### Upcoming Events:

- **Sports Banquet**  
Tuesday, May 1
- **Piano Recital**  
Thursday, May 10
- **Girls Volleyball Tournament**  
Friday, May 11
- **Final Exams**  
(1/2 Day Schedule)  
Wednesday-Friday, May 16-18

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# The Crusade

Volume 1 | Issue 8

## Field Trip



On Friday, April 13 the Bible-quiz team took a field trip to Camelot. It was our reward for doing so well at Fine Arts. Originally we were supposed to go miniature golfing at Camelot, but because of the rain we played laser tag and arcade games instead. I think Hannah Artiga won the most tickets, but she also

brought the most money. Mr. Weldon earned the highest score in laser tag, but he shot countless times. We had a great time!

On the same day, the seventh and eighth graders took a field trip to the Lake-wood Mall with their English teacher, Mr. Goltiao. With a teacher like him, you know they had lots of fun. They had lunch in the food court.

On Tuesday, April 17 the seventh through twelfth graders took a field trip to Five Guys, Jamba Juice, and the park. This field trip was our prize for taking notes

during Spiritual Emphasis Week. I think the highlight of the day was watching Mr. Weldon play basketball. I heard that he had a pretty epic fall. Maybe I should say epic fail? Anyway, we all had an extremely fun time!

On Monday, April 23 the third through sixth graders took a field trip to see the play "Ellis Island." And on Monday, April 30 the kindergarten through third graders are going to the zoo. Who knew April would be so packed with field trips?

— Chika Okeke

## Ever Wondered? *How Mountain Goats climb*

Mountain goats, such as the Ibex and the Musk Ox, climb high mountains to avoid large predators. Their thick coats of fur protect them from the chilling temperatures on top of mountains. Their feet are specially created with pads that give them traction and cloven hoofs that can spread apart.

A buck's horns are used in duels to claim a territory or a female. Because of their characteristics and skeleton, mountain goats are expert climbers reaching up to 13,000 feet in altitude. Sometimes, a mountain goat has to climb an almost vertical mountain using dangerous paths to escape wolves,

mountain lions, or bears. Mountain goats are fascinating animals to study and observe.

— Joshua Tecson



## Staff Spotlight: *The April Interview*



### Random Facts:

- The longest recorded distance for a projectile being vomited is 27 feet.
- A "jiffy" is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second.
- George Washington had dentures consisting partly of hippo teeth.
- The most densely populated state in the United States is New Jersey with over 1,000 people per square mile. The least densely populated state is Alaska with 1 person per square mile.
- Elephants are the only mammals that can't jump.

April Joy De Vera, the new third and fourth grade teacher at GBCS, was born sometime in the 1900s (she refuses to be specific), and is the oldest of three girls. She has been attending GBC since she was eleven. She was saved on January 23, 1999, and considers salvation the best choice she has ever made.

Miss De Vera did not always want to be a teacher; when she was younger, she wanted to be an engineer like her father. Becoming a nurse was also in her mind. However, these plans changed during her senior year in high school. While helping at Vacation Bible School, Miss De Vera realized that she had a desire to help others. Miss De Vera's desire was to make the world a better place. How? By inspiring others and enabling children to discover their full potential and to believe in themselves. She claims that her style of

teaching is somewhat different from the normal routine. Her practice is defined as "constructivism." In a sense, she is more interactive in her teachings and encourages her students to "think outside the box."

In 2010, Miss De Vera graduated from California State University Long Beach with a degree in Liberal Studies. The following year, she became a tutor at public schools in Torrance and Norwalk. After Mrs. Viloría had her baby, Pastor Murphy offered Miss De Vera the job. In April 2011, she came to observe our school. Apparently we were all on our best behavior without knowing it because she noticed that we were all well-behaved. She said that the transition to a Christian school was somewhat weird because kids here are actually taught to respect their teachers. She also mentioned that she is grateful for the support of



the parents and for the overall positive attitude.

Miss De Vera loves to watch basketball, and her favorite team is the Lakers. John Wooden, a former UCLA basketball coach, once stated his "Definition of Success," and it became Miss De Vera's life quote and motivated her to get through her studies. The "Definition of Success" goes as follows: "Success is the peace of mind, which is a direct result of self-satisfaction in knowing you made the effort to do your best to become the best that you are capable of becoming."

So what lies in Miss De Vera's future? She wants to return to college to receive her Master's degree, and she is considering sky-diving. Miss De Vera also wants to visit Italy and the Philippines. She still believes that her life purpose is to inspire others and to help the needy—two simple things we all could apply to our lives.

— Grace Campbell

## Food For Thought: *Red Velvet Cake*

Red Velvet cake is a popular cake known for its rich red color. This color in the cake comes from a chemical reaction (not harmful) of cocoa powder, an acidic ingredient (usually buttermilk), and food coloring. To make the red color flare out, vinegar is added. The cake may be topped with several different toppings. In World

War II food rationing was essential, so in order to enhance the color of the cake, bakers would use boiled beets. During the Great Depression a company named Adam Extract, one of the first to sell red food coloring and many other flavor extracts, was basically the first to introduce the Red Velvet Cake. Many people think that this

cake came from New York, but that is not necessarily true, others believe the recipe was stolen from the South. Red Velvet cake is pretty much an "All-American" dessert, enjoyed by many hard-working American citizens.

— Jacob Bernal



## Aaron's Tall Tales: *I'm Still Here*



### More Random Facts:

- One quarter of the human brain is used to control the eyes.
- They have square watermelons in Japan - they stack better.
- Slugs have 4 noses.
- A shrimp's heart is in its head.
- A hummingbird weighs less than a penny.
- 7.5 million toothpicks can be created from a cord of wood.
- Cranberries are sorted for ripeness by bouncing them; a fully ripened cranberry can be dribbled like a basketball.
- The average person falls asleep in 7 minutes.
- Rain contains vitamin B12.

My breath is cold as ice. The landscape around me is barren and desolate. Nothing but the polluted gust of air that trembles throughout the world rustles through my hair. It is humid, dry, and warm all at the same time. My body does not sweat, yet I shiver and tremble. I look behind me. Nothing is there -- Just God, dirt, and me, and death too.

I approach an abandoned town. It is lifeless and dead, just like the rest of the world. Trash fills the streets. Clothes and remains of once breathing people lay randomly across the town. Windows are shattered. Doors are butchered. Buildings are slowly decaying. *All* is dead. I walk inside the city's borders and stop. I look around and smell -- nothing but ash is detectable. The sight of the ghost town is truly atrocious, but I accept it. Nothing went the way it was supposed to. Ever since the *Event*, the world was dying. The people began looting and everything inhumanely possible was happening before our very eyes. People did what they had to do to survive, I understand that, but the horrific things I can't even mention...those people *will* be held responsible. Fortunately, I was not one of them. My sanity was never lost.

I turn and stare down the middle of the road, pondering what terrible events might have happened here. How many children have lost their parents? How many *parents* have lost their children? Were there any survivors? Any? During my travels, I had met two men down in Camootchee County, but their ignorance soon cost them their lives. One went by the name of Jim. Young, good-looking fellow, but he couldn't survive if his life depended on it. Which it did. The other was Mitch -- tall and built like a freight train. He certainly knew how to defend himself, but his lack of decision-making abilities cost the poor soul his life. It's a shame really. He was only twenty-eight.

I look down at the tip of my boot when my eye suddenly catches a glimpse of red. I bend down and examine what appears to be a shotgun cartridge -- fresh and clean. My eyes peer to the right. I see size twelve footprints. Someone's here. I drop the cartridge and bolt to my feet, frantically searching my gun holster for my 9mm. I cautiously and quickly charge to a porch across the street and hide behind a banister. I nervously wait, anticipating...something. I glance above the banister to check for any signs of life, but instead see the town the same as it had been when I got there. I slide back down the banister, my head resting upon it. I can hear my pulse pounding through my ears. My hands tremble and shake as I grip the gun. I *know* someone is here. I can actually say I'm scared. Maybe they've already seen me. Maybe not. I begin to think back to when the earth was good, before the *Event* happened, that is. When all was well. I begin to hear my family's voice -- my son, my wife. I can see their faces as I close my eyes. They're calling to me. I cock the pistol. My finger is on the trigger. I begin to raise it...

All becomes quiet and I open my eyes. I look over the banister and see four men coming my way from across the street. They have rifles clenched in their hands. I feel like I've brought a knife to a gunfight. One of them appears familiar but I'm not sure. I shrug it off and check my ammo supply. From the looks of it, they seem to be low on their ammo quantity. The odds are definitely in my favor. I dart off the porch towards the side of the house evading rays of bullets fired at me. I take a quick breath and turn to shoot. I fire two rounds and watch as they take their cover. I hop onto the street and bolt across to a destroyed general store. One, two, three shots are fired. One of the gunmen pops above his cover. I fire two more rounds and watch as he falls to the ground. Three more to go. Ugh. I vault over the store's banister and fall to the ground. They know my position now. Suddenly, a gulf of wind and pellets burst over my head. There's the shotgun.

This gunman is rather brave as he is clearly away from his cover. I rise while he pumps the shotgun and I shoot another two rounds. He falls. I then turn to the other two and fire the rest of my clip. I dive to a prone position then reload as they fire away. Click! The gunfire stops, declaring only one thing -- no more ammo. I take advantage of the opportunity and raise up to face them. Their scared faces beam right back at me. They drop their weapons.

"Please -- don't..." one of them mutters, "We didn't know who you was."

"I'm not going to," I say.

I examine their eyes; they truly are scared. I pause for a moment then nod my head, allowing them to go. They hesitate, and then nervously run off into the distance away from town. I take a long, heavy sigh then walk over to one of the deceased gunmen, hoping for some valuables to salvage. But as I approach his lifeless body, my heart skips a beat and my jaw grits shut. A knot grows in my stomach. A tear falls from my eye as I gaze upon the lifeless body of my long lost son, Jack. And for the faintest moment, the world doesn't seem so large anymore. I remember that I'm still here.

— Aaron A. Ramos

## April Fools' Day



April Fools' is the perfect time to prove how many people are "fools." It's a great time to get revenge on those that have pranked you or just to take advantage of the more gullible. Really though, April Fools' Day is not actually a holiday but yet a day celebrated by playing jokes, pranks, and hoaxes on others. Some people used to

celebrate New Year's with a week-long celebration ending on April 1. It has been suggested that people who celebrated New Year's on January 1 made fun of the people who celebrated the day on other dates. Also, many people think this day originated from the tradition of the Iranian's 13<sup>th</sup> day of their Persian new year. This tradition has been go-

ing since 536 B.C. and is the oldest pranking tradition still celebrated today. There are many beliefs and facts about this worldwide, loved and celebrated tradition.

— Jacob Bernal



Regina Tecson, a nurse at Lakewood Regional Hospital, works in the cardiac telemetry department. She was born the eldest of three sisters in Zambales, Philippines. She studied at Perpetual Help College in Manila and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree of Science in Nursing. She accepted Christ as her personal Savior at a Bible study in 1990. She was introduced to her husband by a friend and married Joselito Tecson in 1992. She gave birth to two children, Maryam and Joshua. Regina and her family moved to Los An-

geles from the Philippines in 2005. She has worked as a nurse for several years in many places and hospitals, and taught clinical nursing for a short time. She was also a volunteer nurse in medical missions in churches, teaching others how to treat certain symptoms and how to prevent sickness. My mom currently works at Lakewood Regional Hospital. Her work is in the telemetry department, treating patients with heart problems. She gives them their daily medicine according to their various prescriptions and records their conditions. Because she is a nurse, she has the opportunity to share the Gospel with her patients, especially the terminally ill. She has been able to win some of her patients to the Lord while on duty. She is busy throughout the week with her work. She works from 7 PM to 7AM, then she sleeps as long as she can dur-

ing the day. Although it is a lot of work, she continues to perform in the field of medicine because of her love to help people. She was trying to find a Christian school close to her work for her children and found Gethsemane in 2008. She and her family joined Gethsemane Baptist Church in 2009. She enjoyed playing volleyball in high school. She was a play director and choreographer in college. Her favorite team is the Los Angeles Clippers, so we have a pleasant conflict when the Lakers play the Clippers. Her favorite television shows are Filipino soap operas. My mom likes to travel to different states and see interesting places. She works hard in just about everything and seeks for more ways to serve God. Her advice to us is to obey your parents and obey God.

— Joshua Tecson

### Keeping up with the Joneses: *The Sony DEV-5*

What can see far and shoot HD videos? Digital camcorder binoculars.



Sony's DEV-5 is an example of this cool gadget. These binoculars have a special optical lens that enables you to see farther than the average binoculars. It has a camera and a camcorder built in so you can capture pictures and take videos of your favorite sports, animals, people, etc. The DEV-5 weighs 2.65 lb. and its dimensions are 10.63in. x 2.63in. x 3.47in. (219mm x 155mm x 88mm). One of the greatest features of these binoculars is that it can shoot 2D and 3D videos. Imagine videoing someone squirting milk from his eye from across the park and watching the milk squirt from the screen. This is a very cool gadget, and you could purchase your very own for about \$2,000.

— Jason Jones

## Volleyball Season 2012

This year, our girls' volleyball team is definitely on a streak. We have played Lighthouse Lions, First Baptist Defenders, Foothill Falcons, Grace Swordsmen, and the Montecito Hawks. We hope we win a game soon. Until then, we will just have to try our best.

In the game against the Falcons (which was our first game), we did not do well at all. We just could not seem to get into rhythm. In the next game against First Baptist, we did much better, but we still managed to lose. We gave up the lead that we had in the first set. After that, we simply lost the next two sets.

In the game against the Lighthouse Lions, we gave up a lead yet again, this time in

the first set. Then, we lost the next two sets. When we played First Baptist again, we lost the first set, but we did win the second set. Subsequently, we lost the next two sets. All of the sets were close, but we have not won a close game thus far.

Against Grace, we played with only five people. We fought especially hard in the first set, but none of the remaining sets were close. Against the Montecito Hawks, we again played with only five people so again we were at a disadvantage. They led for most of the first set, but we managed to pull it together and win that set. During the second set, they racked up most of their points on their serves, and

they did win that set. In the third set, we won fairly easily. It looked as if everything

was in our favor. All we needed was one more set. In the fourth set, it looked as if we were going to take the game completely, but then everything started to go wrong. Montecito quickly caught up to us and won the set. Now, we had to play a fifth set—the tie-breaker! Monica started off with her powerful serves. We got about five points from her serves then

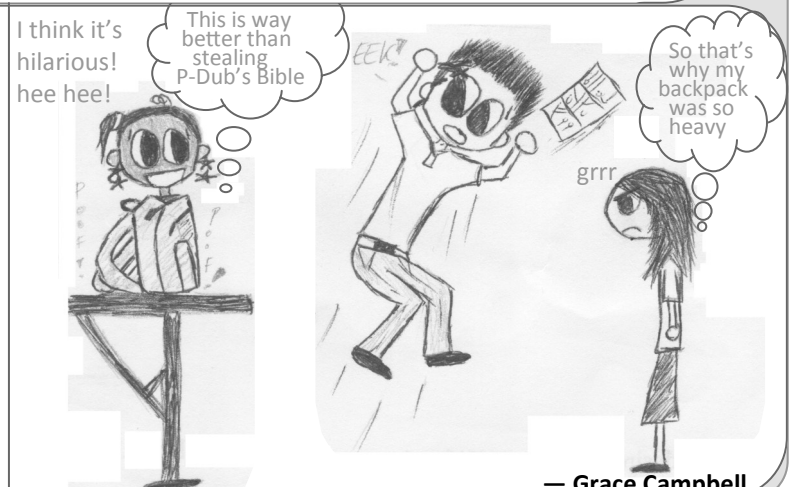


failed to return one, so the Hawks received the serve. Then they started to score on their serves and took the lead. When we received the serve again, we tied it up. From this point on, it seemed as if we just traded serves. Unfortunately, we made two very costly mistakes and it cost us the game.

— Chika Okeke



20 minutes earlier, at a different tree...



## Survey Says:

McDonald's or Burger King?

**McDonald's 75%**

**Burger King 25%**

Would you rather have a head made of rubber or feet made of cement?

**Rubber head 59%**

**Cement feet 41%**

Snickers or Twix?

**Snickers 34%**

**Twix 66%**

Google or Bing?

**Google 93%**

**Bing 7%**

Would you rather be attacked by bees or fire ants?

**Bees 48%**

**Fire Ants 52%**

Juice or milk?

**Juice 61%**

**Milk 39%**

Baseball or Soccer?

**Baseball 43%**

**Soccer 57%**

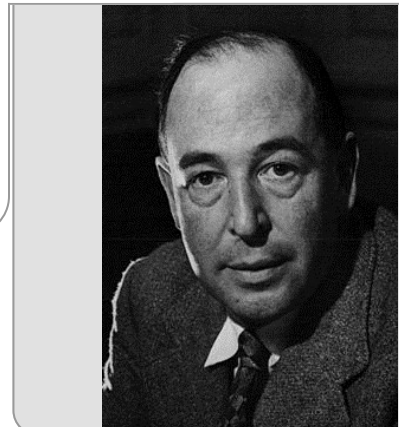
### Who's That Author? C.S. Lewis

C. S. Lewis was a novelist, poet, literary critic, essayist, and Christian apologist who was widely known as the author of the famous book series, *The Chronicles of Narnia*. Clive Staples Lewis was born on November 29, 1898, in Belfast, Ireland. He had an elder brother, Warren Hamilton Lewis. At the age of four, his dog Jacksie was killed by a car, causing Lewis to proclaim to his family that he would from now on go by the name of Jacksie. Eventually, he would accept the name Jack, but nothing else. And for the rest of his life, his family and friends would refer to him as "Jack." As a boy, he became fondly interested with the stories of Beatrix Potter and would often write and illustrate his own animal stories. Because his father's house was filled with books, Lewis loved to read, and at times, he seemed to enjoy it more than playing outside. Lewis was schooled by private tutors before being sent to the

Wynyard School in Watford, Hertfordshire, in 1908, just after his mother's death from cancer. He was then sent to the town of Malvern, Worcestershire, where he attended Cherbourg House preparatory school. It was during this time that Lewis abandoned his childhood Christian faith and became an atheist, becoming interested in mythology and the occult. In September 1913, Lewis enrolled at Malvern College, where he remained until the following June. In 1917, Lewis left his studies to volunteer in the British Army and was later commissioned as an officer during World War I. After battling with Christ for many years, he slowly re-embraced Christianity, having been influenced by arguments with his Oxford colleague and friend J. R. R. Tolkien and by his own personal conviction. Lewis was a prolific writer, and his circle of literary friends became an informal discussion society known as the "Inklings." Lewis

wrote many novels and non-fictional writings. Some of his works include *The Pilgrims Regress*, *The Space Trilogy*, and his most famous work *The Chronicles of Narnia*. Lewis's health eventually began to decline, and he was soon diagnosed with renal failure. On November 22, 1963, exactly one week before his 65th birthday, Lewis collapsed in his bedroom at 5:30 pm and died a few minutes later. His great testimony as a Christian and writer will continue to inspire many people for the remainder of time.

— Aaron A. Ramos



### Check us out online!

Current and previous issues of *The Crusade* are available for download in pdf format at: [gbclongbeach.org/the-crusade-school-newspaper-.html](http://gbclongbeach.org/the-crusade-school-newspaper-.html).