There's something "fishy" going on in science class...

Grace Academy’s sixth grade students are enjoying a hands-on learning experience through the Trout in the Classroom program. The trout eggs were delivered to the classroom on Wednesday, December 14. Sixth grade students in the general science class will be responsible for daily care for the trout, including...

(continued on page 2)

Congratulations to seniors Benjamin Quirple and Brianna Steward, our 2017 Homecoming King and Queen! Also voted on Homecoming Court were Lauralyn Brown, Chloe Sprecher, Ruthie Buser, Harrison Barger, Kyle Daya, and Mark Koontz.
feeding the fish, evaluating water pH, and cleaning the tank. Students apply Trout in the Classroom to their learning of ecosystems, fish anatomy, classification of species, and life cycles throughout the academic year.

“I think this is a great opportunity for students to not only learn about water quality and responsibility but the importance of life and growing,” said Charlie Mandracchia, general science and biology teacher at Grace Academy.

Once grown, the sixth graders plan to release the trout to a stream in Kiwanis Park in Hagerstown in mid-May.

**LIMAI CHINESE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL VISITS GRACE ACADEMY**

Grace Academy welcomed Principal Li Zhiyong from the Limai Chinese American (International) School in Limai, China on Friday, January 13. This is the first visit Grace Academy has received from the principal of an international partner school.

“Schools in China are shifting to integrate western teaching methods of engaging students in the classroom while maintaining their Chinese culture,” said Brian Kelley, international student program administrator. “Principal Zhiyong’s visit confirms that trend and signifies Limai’s strong desire to grow its partnership with Grace Academy.”

Zhiyong’s visit included an administrative welcome, a tour of the school, meeting staff and faculty, and lunch in the community. Zhiyong was accompanied by Edmond Mai, a representative of Blue Ivy NY Education Group.

After Zhiyong’s visit, the Limai school in China will expect Kelley to visit their school and meet their staff in early summer 2017. Kelley will be the fourth Grace Academy representative to visit partner schools in China since its International Student Program began in 2009.

**LOCAL AUTHOR VISITS GRACE ACADEMY**

Sue James, a local author from Waynesboro, Pa., made a personal visit to read and share her book “My Bumblebee and Me” with Grace Academy elementary students this fall.

James and illustrator of the book Kathleen Renninger plan to publish another book together titled “The Cat Who Wants To Fly.”

James has previously been featured in the Record Herald and the Herald Mail.
MARK KOONTZ BECOMES NEW ALL-TIME LEAD SCORER

“Ninth grade, I would have never thought — maybe get to a thousand points,” Koontz said. “But definitely not a school record.”

The 6-foot-2 Koontz began playing for the varsity in the eighth grade, though as a reserve he scored just 52 points. He [averaged] 16.0 [points] per game this year.

Koontz — who also excels for the Grace soccer and baseball teams — has great appreciation for his accomplishment, especially considering how involved his family has been in sports.

“Everybody was older,” Mark Koontz said. “So I’ve always looked up to them, went to their practices when they were in high school and I’d shoot around and stuff in the gym. It gave me a vision, seeing them, how they played. Just grew up always wanting to be as good as them.”

originally published on heraldmailmedia.com

BOYS BASEBALL 2017

Cheer on your Knights baseball team this spring to their FOURpeat MDCC Championship!
The first conference games of the season begin on March 28. Visit our athletics page online for the full season schedule. Go Knights!

CONTRATULATIONS!

TAYLOR MORGAN (LEFT) AND HANNAH COLVIN (RIGHT) HAVE JOINED THE 1000 POINT CLUB!

GIRLS SOCCER 2017

VIEW THE SEASON SCHEDULE ONLINE AND ATTEND OUR GIRLS MIDDLE SCHOOL AND VARSITY SOCCER GAMES THIS SEASON!

DID YOU KNOW?
The Mason Dixon Christian Conference has a new look! Check out the MDCC’s new logo below!
UPCOMING EVENTS

Senior Mission Trip to Nicaragua
March 6-12

Open House for Interested Families
Tues. March 28
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Christian Soldiers Club
Thurs. March 30
2:15 p.m.

Boys Baseball vs. Shalom
First home conference game of the season!
Thurs. March 30
4:30 p.m.

GVars. Soccer vs. Shalom
First home conference game of the season!
Thurs. March 30
5:15 p.m.

Elementary Academic Showcase
Tues. April 4
6:30 p.m.

MS/HS Academic/International Showcase
Thurs. April 6
6:30 p.m.

Regional Fine Arts Competition
Fri. April 28

Washington County Gives
Tues. May 2
Midnight to 11:59 p.m.

Graduation
Fri. May 19
6:30 p.m.

Last Day of School
Fri. May 26
Noon dismissal

THANK YOU FOR MAKING AN IMPACT!

Through the generosity of people like you, we saw a positive impact in our school and students in 2016, which has continued positive impact on 2017. We saw growth in the total number of donors and in dollars raised last year, and we thank you for your prayerful thoughtfulness to give. Specifically, your giving supported Grace Academy to:

- Give more than 100 thousand dollars in tuition assistance
- 10 students participating in the Urban Hope mission trip
- 30 students participating in the senior mission trip to Myrtle Beach
- One student making a personal commitment to Christ as Savior
- Completion of the gymnasium divider
- Completion of the fine arts stage
- Two new MDCC Championship banners
- Adding a monthly student Club period

Please continue to pray for our students, teachers and administration as we persevere to offer a quality Christian education to our community to the glory of our heavenly Father.

More than 360 Grace Academy students will not be in class but in the community on Monday, May 1, 2017 lending a hand to Washington County organizations for Grace Gives Back, a day of service. An additional 81 parents, teachers, and alumni will participate in the day of service as leaders.

“We really want to show students that service is more than just action,” said Principal Alex Lehman. “Service is about giving resources, love, and attention to people and considering other people’s needs in addition to our own.”

Grace plans to partner with local nonprofit organizations to provide hands-on work projects for students in grades five through 12. Students in Pre-Kindergarten through fourth grade will visit local nursing homes and assisted living facilities to sing songs, complete crafts, play games, and visit with residents.

The school is also extremely pleased to partner with the Hagerstown Home Depot, who will provide materials for the day.