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# GreatHearts

## Irving

Cultivating minds and hearts through the pursuit of Truth, Goodness, and Beauty.

Dear Great Hearted Families,

Today we pause from our normal routines to recognize the contributions of Martin Luther King, Jr. to our country's history. I celebrated the day yesterday, attending an event hosted by the city of Irving. There I listened to Alaina Oommen (5C scholar) read an essay reflecting on her understanding of MLK's ideas. Her poise and her eloquence were a tribute to her parents and, I would like to think, to Great Hearts Irving.

I spent some time rereading "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" for I had recalled Mr. King regularly alluding to and quoting from texts that will likely be familiar to all Great Hearts students by their senior year. In one paragraph he quotes the Apostle Paul, John Bunyan, Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Jefferson, and Jesus Christ. In other parts of the text he reflects the ideas of Martin Buber, Thomas Aquinas, Augustine, The Supreme Court, T.S Elliot and Shakespeare. Poets, Writers, Thinkers, Judges, Founders, Leaders. There are others who also shaped his thinking and certainly others who understand the life and legacy of MLK better than I, but I was encouraged by the evident depth and breadth of his learning which prepared him for such as time as his, when our nation needed a leader like him.

This holiday, this pause in the week, allowed me to consider the gratitude I have for the Great Hearts Irving community of families and friends who make a way for many students to be educated in a manner that will prepare them well for a life of service to their fellows.

Warm Regards,

Tami Perkins

### **Upcoming Events to Remember**

- Monday January 21- Tuesday January

### 22nd **No School**

- Winter projects for Upper School Students



- Wednesday, January 23rd - First day of 3rd quarter
- Thursday, January 24th - Charter Schools 101 Presentation 6:00 - 7:00pm. More details below.
- Friday, January 25th - **FULL DAY**
- Friday, January 25th - First semester evaluations emailed to parents by end of school day
- Wednesday, January 30th - Coffee with College Counselor - covering Summer Programs and the State of College Admissions
- Wednesday, January 30th - Window into Wonder tour from 1:20pm - 2:40pm.

## **Charter School 101**

Please join us on January 24th for our Charter School 101 presentation from 6:00 - 7:00pm at Great Hearts.

Our speaker at this event will be Shree' Medlock, Vice President of Strategic Engagement at Texas Charter Schools Association.

Shree' partners with key stakeholders and partners to build out statewide grassroots political strategy, drive execution, report progress and assist with internal communications for high-intensity campaigns on behalf of public charter schools.

Shree' has worked in the advocacy arena for almost twenty years leading state-based advocacy teams and working with others to create, expand and implement school choice options including charter schools and vouchers. Additionally, Shree' has designed and delivered seminars and workshops to inform and empower parents to advocate for more educational opportunities for their children. Shree' has two children, Brandon, who resides in Dallas and Jennifer, a 2nd-year teacher, who lives in Memphis, TN.

Come and learn:

- Basic facts about charter schools and why they are under attack
- How charter schools and ISDs are funded
- 2019 Legislative Session - How YOU can help

## Campus Construction

We are excited about progress on our new campus! This image depicts slab work being done. Keep an eye out for more visual updates in upcoming newsletters as our exciting progress continues.



## Introducing Keo Strull - Director of Academy Giving

We are excited to introduce you to the newest addition to the GHI team- Keo Strull joins us in the capacity of Director of Academy Giving and has already begun taking on the work of the Community Investment Campaign with energy and zeal. She has wasted no time in getting to know families in recent days- please join us in sharing our welcome and appreciation!

## Student Pick-Up Reminder

All students must be picked up by 3:40 PM unless they are enrolled in an after-school activity. After this time, students are monitored by Athenaeum/Homework Club.

If a student is **not enrolled** in Athenaeum/Homework Club and is picked up **late**, a **charge may be incurred**. Parents arriving at or after 4:00 must park at the Athenaeum/Homework Club parking location and walk inside the **south entrance** to sign out their student.



## Coffee with College Counselor



### Counselor's Coffee Series

Middle and upper school parents are invited to join me for coffee to engage in discussions related to college admissions and post-secondary plans. Every meeting will center on a topic or set of topics, but there will be ample time set aside for questions. Some meetings will be restricted to specific grades as indicated below.

The Counselor's Coffee Series will be held in the Commons unless otherwise noted, from 8:00-9:00 am on the following dates:

Date	Parents Invited	Topic(s)
January 30, 2019	7-10th Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summer Programs</li> <li>• The State of College Admissions</li> </ul>
February 13, 2019	7-10th Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total Cost of College: What will College cost you?</li> </ul>
February 27, 2019	7-10th Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Great Hearts Education: How are Great Hearts schools viewed by colleges?</li> </ul>
March 27, 2019	7-10th Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Texas' Automatic Admissions Policy</li> </ul>
April 10, 2019	7-10th Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great Hearts Graduates: Results for our TX graduates</li> </ul>
May 1, 2019	7-10th Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Testing Options and Standardized Test Prep</li> </ul>
May 29, 2019	7-10th Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning your college campus visits</li> <li>• Making the most of summer</li> </ul>

## **Window into Wonder Tour**

Mr. Althage and Mrs. Perkins will host a Window Into Wonder Tour. This is a great opportunity to get a glimpse into the sense of wonder our scholars experience each day in our classrooms.



Our next tours will be hosted on **Wednesday, January 30th**.  
**Upper School** tour will be hosted from 1:20 - 2:00pm sign up [here](#).  
**Lower School** tour will be hosted from 2:00 - 2:40pm sign up [here](#).

Parents are welcome to attend both tours. If you would like to be a part of both, we ask that you please RSVP for each event. Thank you.

## **Great Hearts Athletics**

### **K-5th Grade Spring YMCA Soccer**

Great Hearts teams are now forming for K-5 Spring soccer in the YMCA recreational league.



The teams are coed, and there are three different age groups: 5/6YO (K&1st), 7/8YO (2nd&3rd), and 9/10YO (4th&5th), often referred to respectively as 6U, 8U, and 10U.

The sign-up deadline is mid February (exact date to be confirmed) to give sufficient time to order team shirts before the start of games on March 2. Cost is \$60 for members of the YMCA, \$75 for non-members.

The season is scheduled to go from March 2 to April 20. There are 8 games in the season, all games will be played Saturdays at North Lake College. Practice times will be determined with your coach, although traditionally GH teams have practices at North Lake on Thursday evenings. Practices usually start a week or two before the games start.

You can sign up online and pay by credit card [here](#).

Alternatively, you can go in person to the YMCA, fill out the registration form and pay with cash, check, or credit card.

When registering, take **PARTICULAR CARE** to specify the school as **GREAT HEARTS**, and to specify the **CORRECT** shirt size.

Brad Bell has volunteered to serve as a liaison between the Great Hearts community and the YMCA to help in organizing the soccer teams and to help ensure the best possible experience. We had quite a good season in the fall, and look forward to another good season this spring. We do expect increased participation over the 5 teams we had in the fall, so we will likely be looking for more volunteer coaches.

Please feel free to contact Mr. Bell for any questions. He can be reached by phone/text at 972-655-4123 or by email at [b\\_radford1@yahoo.com](mailto:b_radford1@yahoo.com)

## Upper School Athletics

### Basketball

All our teams have home games this week after the MLK break. For a complete list of games, please go [here](#).

### Baseball

There will be a baseball meeting for all interested athletes on Thursday, January 24th, after school in the courtyard from 3:15-3:30. If your son is interested in playing baseball this spring, please have him attend that meeting. There will be a high school team, with Middle School athletes having the opportunity to play up.

Baseball season will begin with try-outs on January 31st.

### Track and Field

There will be an interest meeting for Track and Field on Wednesday, January 30th, after school in the courtyard 3:15-3:10. If your son or daughter is interested in running Track and Field, please have them attend that meeting.

Track season will begin with try-outs on February 7th.

## **PSO Information**

**CALLING ALL FEARLESS LEADERS?** Have you wanted to be more involved with PSO? Do you have great ideas and the desire to serve the school in a new way? You are in luck; we need a new **PSO President** and a new **Secretary** for the 2019-2020 school year! If you are interested or just want to hear more about what it entails please reach out to Annie Muller at [psa@greatheartsirving.org](mailto:psa@greatheartsirving.org)



We also need a new volunteer as soon as possible to take over the **Spirit Store**. All this requires is picking up the orders across the street once a month and leaving them at the front desk. If you are interested please contact Annie Muller at [psa@greatheartsirving.org](mailto:psa@greatheartsirving.org)

### **Upcoming Important Dates:**

#### **Teacher Luncheon's**

February 8  
March 22  
April 5

#### **PSO Workshop**

February 7

#### **Field Days (will require lots of volunteers)**

LS March 1  
US March 8

#### **Spirit Nights**

February at Lamberti's (date TBD)  
April 23 at Spring Creek BBQ

## **Athenaeum**

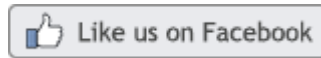
Registration for Athenaeum (K-5th) and Homework Club (6-10th) is now open . You can register for Athenaeum and Homework Club [here](#).



As a reminder, this year for Athenaeum, Homework Club, and any late pick-ups after 4pm, parents will need to park and come in to the South entrance to sign out their student(s).

If you believe you may qualify for financial assistance for the 2018-2019 school year, please email the Co-Curriculars Campus Coordinator, Avery Whitehorn, for more details at [Athenaeum.Irving@GreatHeartsTX.org](mailto:Athenaeum.Irving@GreatHeartsTX.org)

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