
GOLDEN EAGLE

May 2026

● Glendale Christian School ●

Vol.2 Issue 9

From Me to You:

"Never say goodbye because goodbye means going away and going away means forgetting." — J.M. Barrie, Peter Pan

By: Mrs. Debbie Henderson

Retiring after 30 years at GCS fills my heart with deep gratitude. What began with a simple newspaper ad turned into a lifelong calling. I always knew I wanted to teach, and I truly believe the Lord blessed me with the opportunity to live out that desire every single day. Over the years, I've had the privilege of teaching student's from K3 through 12th grade. One of the greatest joys of teaching has been witnessing that special moment when something finally clicks-the light bulb goes on and a student realizes, "I can do this." Seeing students discover their gifts, their confidence, and their potential has been one of the greatest blessings of my life. Those moments never get old. My hope is that my classroom was never just about academics. I hope it was a place where character was built, compassion was learned, and purpose began to take shape. Even more meaningful has been the opportunity to share my faith, to pray with students, and to point them toward the Lord. Being able to pour faith, knowledge, and love into the lives of young people is the legacy that means the most to me. Jeremiah 29:11 reminds us,

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." To my students, I encourage you to stay strong in your faith. Take time to be still and listen for the Lord's voice in your life. And never be afraid to reach out and talk to someone when you need encouragement or guidance. This journey has been a lifetime of purpose. I have been blessed with wonderful students whom I love and countless memories that will stay with me forever. Each of you has left a mark on my heart. While I have been so blessed over the years, I now look forward to spending time with my family and reading all the books on my shelves while relaxing on the beach. It is not easy to say goodbye to something that has meant so much to me for so long. I will miss you more than you know-especially our Monday morning football talk and laughter. Thank you for allowing me to be part of you lives. Teaching you has been one of the greatest honors of mine. Thank you for being part of my journey. Go BIRDS!
-Mrs. Henderson

Retirement=Job Well Done

By: Lily Willenbrock

God has a plan for everyone, and for Debbie Henderson that meant teaching. After 30 faithful years, this will be her last year doing so. She had hardships along the way to her teaching career, one being that her guidance counselor said to her, "Because teaching job opportunities are low, you will be teaching in a grass hut somewhere if you continue to pursue your plan." However, Debbie Henderson wanted to be a teacher from childhood; she even said that "I used to get home from school and play school." Teaching was not the only occupation she pursued. Mrs. Henderson worked as a lawyer for RCA and Campbell Soup. Before this and fresh out of high school, she enrolled in a business college and tried everything out, including joining a sorority, participating in pageants, and cheering for the college basketball team. Once she married and had children, she decided to stay home with her kids. Once both of her children reached school age, she received her teaching certificate and began working as a substitute. Mrs. Henderson began teaching at Glendale Christian School after her father passed away. Answering an ad in the local newspaper, she interviewed for a secretary position at Glendale Baptist Church. After the interview, the pastor at the time said she'd be better working as a K3 teacher. So began her journey. Mrs. Henderson has taught every grade from second to twelfth, with a focus on language. She has always had a love for language and is an avid reader and writer. Mrs. Henderson is retiring this May, leaving a legacy that no other teacher could replace. A new chapter is beginning

for her life. She feels it is time to once more stay home and care for her family there. Mrs. Henderson loves the beach and looks forward to spending many hours there in her retirement. She believes that "God is good, He creates a new sunrise at the beach every day for me to reflect." She looks forward to listening to her favorite band, Aerosmith, watching football, eating wings, and going on new adventures with her husband. Mrs. Henderson will thoroughly enjoy her much awaited retirement, though we will miss her. Her years of teaching the love of Christ, language, and good football have influenced so many lives and Glendale Christian School was fortunate the Lord sent her to us.



Eating Healthy

By: Allie Ballard

Eating healthy is important to the body to help it function properly. Gaining things like nutrients, carbohydrates, protein, fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and vitamins, allows the body to stay strong, grow muscles, strengthen bones, and stay clear minded. Eating an unbalanced diet or leaving important items out of your meals can cause illness such as strokes, diabetes, obesity, and more. The main reason a student needs a healthy diet during the school year is to help with focus. Eating healthy and correctly allows for concentration and extended memory. Future health is important as well. Starting your life with unhealthy habits can cause multiple problems for you and your body when aging. Eating certain things can cause serious health concerns while maintaining a balanced diet can add years to your life expectancy. It stands to reason that when you look good, you feel good both physically and mentally. Overall, eating healthy is about giving your body, mind, and soul strength for years to come.



Last Day of School

May 14, 2026, Glendale West
May 15, 2026, Glendale East

Freedom= Responsibility

By: CC Ioannides

Unrestricted space is a priveledge as well as a heavy responsibility. Different people have their own idea of what freedom looks like. Whether it is going out with your friends, or traveling to big cities alone, your definition of unlimited space will be different from your friends. My opinion of having freedom is being able to do the things that I love, which include having a later curfew, less strict rules on where I can go, and who I can hang out with. The answers of what I consider to be freedom come with many responsibilities. These specific wishes of space can be risky, especially for a fourteen year old, but as long as I am safe and my parents know where I am, I think it is fair. This freedom can impact me positively because I can learn social skills, and explore more places. Moreover, it can impact me in a negative way by causing my sleep schedule to get messed up, grades to suffer, and create problems with my parents. The idea of unlimited space is a nice thought, however, it is hard to obtain. I am grateful of what I get to experience everyday, even if I don't acquire all of the freedoms I would like to have.



Imani Milele

By: Nicole Summerall

Psalm 100:2 instructs us to "Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs". Anyone who had the pleasure of seeing the Imani Milele children's choir from Uganda can testify to what this verse speaks of. Imani Milele is a Christian non-profit organization from Uganda with the mission of representing the Lord Jesus through practical means. Beginning in 1989, Rev. Moses Ssemanda Mbuga, led by the Holy Spirit, set out to change the future of Ugandan children. What began with three orphaned children has turned into a mission serving over 5,000 children. In a country with over 3 million orphans, they work tirelessly to give children opportunities many people take for granted in our own country. Many children in Uganda lack basic needs such as daily food, clean water, shoes, clothing, medical care, and education. In Uganda, education is considered a privilege, not a requirement. Many impoverished families cannot afford the fees required for children to attend school. Imani Milele seeks to break this cycle by providing the necessary funds that will allow children to finish school. Currently, 7 out of 10 children won't finish a primary-level education. Most Ugandan adults haven't received an education and unfortunately prioritize child labor over education. If a family can afford to send a child to school, most often it is a male child as girls are considered property, useful for bargaining in marriage. Imani Milele seeks to equip children with skills

that will help them develop into self-sufficient adults who contribute back to society as productive members. Not only does this program meet the practical needs of children, but it teaches children about Jesus and the need for a personal relationship with the Savior. When viewing from the protective lens of an American perspective, the realization hits hard. While America struggles with poverty, rarely do we witness it to the extent we see as normal in Uganda. America has so much that it spills over into waste. We tend to take for granted and disregard what others lack. We throw away food, school supplies, clothing and shoes, but most importantly, opportunity. In contrast, the Imani Milele Children's Choir dances with joy just as David did, knowing that God sees them and that He has a hope and a future, to do them good and not harm. What encouragement that is for all of us here in the land of opportunity.



Imani Milele Children's Choir
[Click here](#) for more information or to sponsor a child.

Reflections: of a Middle Schooler

By: Laura Smith

Going from a fifth grader anxious for sixth grade to an eighth grader preparing for high school has been eye-opening lately. Prior to starting at Glendale, I didn't have the best experience. I was struggling mentally and being bullied by girls in my class. Moving from Jacksonville to Vero beach felt uncomfortable, but coming to Glendale felt right. I met many amazing people when I came here. Going into sixth grade felt like a huge change from fifth grade, I was now in "upper school." There I met my best friend, Julia. I believe she was sent by God to challenge, encourage, and motivate me to be a better person. I was having trouble with my autoimmune disease and my anxiety. My friends and my school were with me, standing with me while I was in the storm. My middle school years have been filled with laughter by my dearest friends, Matthew and Bentley. Matthew has always been there for me. He never made me feel alone. He has never failed to make me and my sister laugh. Seventh grade hit me like a truck. I struggled finding joy, and I was a stranger to myself. Having arguments with my friends and getting into drama was mostly the downfall of that year. I felt that I had to be something and to prove to people something I was not. I was constantly in a nervous state due to my older friends going into high school. It was like they were slipping through my fingers, but I soon realized that it is okay to grow apart. That following summer I recovered myself. I started to let go of things and that's when growth started happening. I learned to be independent. Not needing to depend on someone was my breakthrough. As eighth grade began it felt like the beginning of the end. I had spent four years with these incredible people and now some of us would part ways. My eighth grade year has been filled with laughter and pure happiness. I got closer to my friends this year and learned that the girls in my class are the most caring people I know. They are my safe place. Julia and I's friendship has gotten deeper with inside jokes or crying on the phone together. She has always been by my side, seeing through my imperfections and still loving me. My parents have also been by my side as well. My mom is fascinated with how much I know of the Bible and how much I have grown this year. I'm my dad's little girl. He has always protected me when school felt hard. My parents are my biggest supporters; they have always gone to my plays and concerts. They clap so hard I never know who's not clapping. Currently, I'm the only one going to a different school than everyone else in my grade. I'm leaving my friends for high school, but I will keep in touch with them. Preparing to go into high school has been exciting and scary. I am excited about the opportunities my new school has for me, but I will never forget where I came from. I carry the lessons I learned dear to my heart. I have mixed emotions for the last day of school, the last day here at Glendale Christian School. The classes filled with laughter finally are silent. We will never be those kids again. As we learn how to build futures and careers, I wish the best for every one of my classmates.

Time Flies

By: Matthew Riendeau

Many things happened throughout elementary and middle school, good and bad. I remember being very nervous and stressed out about how hard the next grade would be and if I would have friends. Of course, every grade gets a little bit more difficult, but you're helped every step of the way. Over the years I've learned that a bad grade here and there isn't the end of the world and made sure school, though important, wasn't the centerpiece of my life. Growing up during most of elementary and middle school, I felt that I needed to be the best I could be in order to be special because my biggest fear was being a disappointment. Looking back, all I ever wanted was to be liked by everyone I knew. Because of moving and family issues, I have attended five different schools. My favorite one by far has been Glendale Christian School. There, I made amazing friends who helped show me that I do not need everyone to like me, only my closest friends, and most of all myself. I think with the help of everyone I met on the way, even though sometimes I don't show it, I've grown as a person very much. I consider a lot of people my friends but I'd have to say my closest friends would be Cole, Haven, Bentley, Laura, Lilly, Allie, Flora, Chloe, and Mya. I'm thankful for all of these people and my classmates who made every single year fun and full of memories. Throughout sixth grade, my grades varied from good to bad, but later on, I realized that homework was one of the most important things we had to do.

With the help of actually doing my homework, I understood more compared to just studying for an upcoming test or quiz. To me, it seems kind of odd leaving almost all the people in my class I've known for almost four years, and a little sad. Next year, I hope I'll be able to meet more people and have the same, if not better friendships with them. I hope to one day be able to look back and see how far my classmates and I have gone in life. I know a lot of people say it, but time really does fly by.



Culture Corner: Birthday Cake

By: Laura Smith

Cake comes from ancient Roman and Greek traditions. People would present round, honey cakes to Artemis, the goddess of the moon. The modern version we see today began in Germany. German bakeries began selling them as children cakes in the 18th century in celebration of "Kinderfest". The candles often found on birthday cakes symbolize the "light of life" while the tradition of blowing out candles originated in Switzerland. During the 19th-century, ingredients like sugar became more affordable and accessible making birthday cakes less of a luxury and more of a tradition. Birthday cake traditions vary from around the world. Beautifully decorated birthday cake has become an important tradition in America.

Journeys We Take

By: CC Ioannides

Many journeys happen when you are in middle school, good and bad. Middle school has arguably, some of the most important and meaningful moments in your life, whether it is the friendships, or the hardships. In my experience, these three years were the most difficult for me, due to the aggressive bullies and challenges I faced. However, I have some good memories, most of them being from this year, eighth grade. In sixth grade, I faced many humbling experiences, such as being bullied, third wheeled, and gaining big insecurities that even stick with me now. At this time anxiety took control of my life, making me an angry and frustrated student. My path throughout this grade can be described as troubled, disheveled, and chaotic. However, some lessons were learned that year, such as how I learned to compose myself, control my emotions, and control my anxiety. Seventh grade year seemed like a blur. I transferred from the old Montessori school I enrolled in at sixth grade and started being homeschooled. Believe it or not, school wasn't the biggest part of my life at that time, it was rowing. I originally joined the rowing team in sixth grade but I worked my very hardest in seventh. With my friend Daphne, we were accepted into the high school JV division. Although it was hard adjusting at first, I met new people, had fun at races, and learned a lot about a very underrated sport. Finally, eighth grade comes, one of the biggest decisions I had to make; keep being homeschooled and pursue rowing or going to school and pushing my academic capabilities? For some people, this would be an easy decision. For myself however, that was not the case. I am very passionate about sports, but my dream is to be able to help others, be knowledgeable, and go into the medical field. Even though I had friends at rowing, I was mostly at home working on school assignments, with no one but my parents around. This created a lonely environment for me, which led to more stress. Between loneliness or normal schooling, I chose Glendale. Ever since I joined Glendale Christian School, I have made many new friends, such as Leah and Flora. With all of the funny people around, I don't think I have laughed this much in my life. Some people say I smile too much, but, in reality, this is what makes me so joyful. Even though it has only been one year, I feel like I made relationships that I will look back and smile upon. This year has brought me so much joy and it was a blessing that God has put me in the position I am in today. Though middle school was filled with good memories and bad memories, God's plan always works. He put amazing people into my life, especially my eight grade class. Although my classmates may not know it, they have made my life so much easier and much more bearable. I am thankful for all of them. Having some crazy moments in your life may seem daunting at first, but they are crucial to shape who you are and who God wants you to be. Be grateful for every moment in your life, positive and negative.

Memorial Day

By: Matthew Riendeau



Memorial day, or Decoration Day, was established in 1868 on the last day of May and is celebrated to mourn the soldiers who lost their lives in a war. Traditionally, people would decorate the graves of people who died in the line of duty with flowers and flags. Some people may confuse Memorial Day with Veterans Day. Memorial Day is used to celebrate only the fallen soldiers while Veterans Day is used to celebrate and honor all military personnel. The first state to originally recognize Memorial Day as a federal holiday was New York, but in 1971 congress established Memorial Day as a national holiday. Historically, it was established to mourn the lives of those who died during the American Civil War, but after World War I, Memorial Day was expanded to honor all fallen military personnel.

Annual Art Show and Spaghetti Dinner

By: Nicole Summerall

Please join us for our annual art show and spaghetti dinner. This is a wonderful event showcasing our elementary school art work. You are encouraged to bring your family and enjoy a spaghetti dinner for a small price. You may also purchase your child's artwork at the event for a donation. Mrs. Kathy and the students have worked hard all year to prepare different pieces of art for the exhibit. Please purchase your tickets in the office for the dinner.

Open for Registration



Summer camp will begin on May 26th, the Tuesday after Memorial Day at the Glendale East Campus. This will be for preschool through INCOMING 5th grade students only. Please check with the office for the calendar and make sure to pre-register due to a limited number of spots.

*NEW this year, we will offer 3 summer clinics at Glendale West for incoming 6th graders through 12th grade. The dates are :

June 15-19; Victory Camp

June 22-26; Survivor Camp

July 13-17; Agriculture Camp



May 8, 2026
5:30-7:00 PM
Glendale West

Mrs. Kathy Shain's



ART SHOW & Spaghetti Dinner



SPAGHETTI DINNER \$8

*** Available for Dine-In OR To Go!**

Includes: Spaghetti, Salad, Breadstick, Drink & Dessert

FAMILY MEAL DEAL \$35

Includes 5 Spaghetti Dinners



Friday, May 8th

5:30 - 7:00 PM

Glendale WEST

455 58th Ave. SW

