



GPCS Students Adopt Local Creek

Last spring, students at Greater Portland Christian School dedicated a sign on the banks of Barberry Creek in South Portland, marking the spot where 4th, 5th and 9th graders had cleared and planted native shrubs as a buffer to limit erosion.

It all started last fall when 4th graders walked along the Green Belt Walkway with their teacher and exclaimed in surprise as the seedpods of jewelweed “exploded” at their touch. Some students told stories of playing in the creek, and their teacher, Mrs. Swartz, wondered how clean the water was for playing in. She discovered that, according to the Urban Streams Reports done in 2003 and 2005, Barberry Creek does not meet Class C aquatic life criteria and is being regularly monitored by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. She applied for a watershed protection grant and was pleased to be awarded \$1,000 by the Maine DEP to plant a native shrub buffer along the stream. This increases the variety of native plants along the stream and helps limit erosion, which is clouding the water and making it unhealthy for fish and other living things.

Before planting, 4th and 5th grade students were led by Ms Rebecca Martin of the Maine DEP in classroom activities about the water cycle and what a watershed is (the area around a stream that drains into it. They learned that what people do in the watershed area, such as fertilizing lawns, paving driveways or dumping oil in storm drains, can harm the streams that rainwater runs off into. They learned how to measure pH, dissolved oxygen content and observe macroinvertebrates and survey the health of a stream.

Students and their families helped to clean up the area on Earth Day and were treated to pizza by the owner of Three Brothers Eatery on planting day! With the help of the South Portland Parks and Planning Departments, O’Donal’s Nursery and Northstar Landscaping, the 4th graders toured the nursery, selected and planted native shrubs. They will constitute a “green team” which will be joined also by future students, to provide ongoing monitoring and litter pickup of the stream area.

Unfortunately, later in the summer, Mrs. Swartz discovered that some shrubs have been vandalized, so she is hoping to find someone who can donate replacement shrubs. Please contact Mrs. Swartz at GPCS (767-5123) if you can help pay for the replacement shrubs.

GPCS Annual Fund Launch

God is good. We all have testimonies of how God blesses us, but this past year He really showed Himself to the school in very special ways. In the midst of a declining economy, God provided for Greater Portland Christian School in His ways and in His perfect timing.

At the end of last school year, GPCS was faced with a budget shortfall. A final Annual Fund appeal went out with only a few weeks left in the year. The response was overwhelming. Once again, godly people with generous hearts met the need.

The school is again faced with the task of bridging the financial gap between tuition and what the expenses are. Please consider giving to the school. GPCS is a 501(c)(3) organization, so your gifts are tax deductible. Visit www.gpcs.net and go to the Development page for more information on how to give.



Visit Us on the Web:
www.gpcs.net

Greater Portland Christian School

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Annual Christmas Craft Fair

Greater Portland Christian School invites you to its 3rd annual Christmas Craft Fair. The fair will be at the school on Saturday, November 21 from 9am-3pm. The fair will feature many handmade craft vendors, quality products, food tables, and this year there will be a children’s craft area.

If you are a crafter looking for a fair to be at this date, there are a few spaces still available. Contact GPCS for a registration form and details. Call 767-5123, or email Natalie Cleary at nataliecleary@yahoo.com.

Annual Christmas Concert

The annual Greater Portland Christian School Christmas Concert will be Monday, December 21 at the First Baptist Church of South Portland at 7pm. All of the choruses will be performing. The “GPCS and Friends” Children’s Chorus will sing traditional carols and sacred Christmas songs. The Junior High Girls’ and Boys’ Choruses and the High School Choruses will also be participating. Each group will perform separately and in various combinations. There will be times when everyone, accompanied by piano and strings, will be invited to sing familiar Christmas carols. All are invited to come celebrate with us the “Reason for the Season.” Check www.gpcs.net to confirm the date and time.

One Act Play “Going To School

The Greater Portland Christian School Drama Team will be performing the one-act play, “Going To School” on November 13 and 14 in the GPCS gym at 7:30pm. Each year the Drama Department chooses a one-act play to perform at the Maine Drama Festival in March. All high schools in the state (public and private) are regionally assigned for a weekend of performances. GPCS usually previews the play at their school in the fall to help prepare for the festival. Visit www.gpcs.net to confirm dates and times.

“Going To School” is a comedy. Nick is going off to college for the first time. The only problem is, his family is taking him - his mother worries he will starve to death, his father forgot his tuition check, his teenage sister doesn’t see why she has to go, she just wants to go to her ballet recital, and his grandmother “don’t hear so good no more.”

It’s going to be a fun day.