

# Gap Rap Newsletter

Growing in academic, social, physical and spiritual maturity.

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## PRE-REGISTRATION

With the influx of new families moving to the area & applying to our school, it is imperative that we know how many of our current students will be returning to Standifer Gap next year. Please pay the pre-registration fee to hold your student's spot and to help us plan for the upcoming school year. If you pay by April 15, the pre-registration fee will be \$50 (and will grant a discount of an additional \$50 off the registration fee). If you wait until after April 15, the fee to hold your student's spot will be \$100.

## PARENT ALERT

The school communicates through email and parent text alerts. If you have had any issues with receiving the parent alert text, you can register your phone by texting **START** to **31706**. Also, it is a good idea for you to save this number to your phone.

## SOCCER (4TH-8TH)

Home game tomorrow, March 23rd, at 5:00 pm vs LTES.

## PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

There will be **NO SCHOOL** on March 27th in order to hold parent teacher conferences.

## SOCCER SHOTS

There **WILL BE** soccer shots (K-2nd grade) on March 27th at 3:15 pm even though there is no school on this day (to accommodate parent-teacher conferences).

## SUMMER CAMP

For members of Standifer Gap Church, summer camp sponsorship is available! If your child is interested in going to Cohutta Springs Summer Camp, check in the front office for instructions on how to sign up using the church sponsorship code.

## AGAPE FEAST

Don't forget to RSVP for this free event hosted by Home & School. Come and celebrate the gift that Jesus gave us! Friday, March 31 at 6 pm.

## SCHOOL PICTURES

Graduation photos, retakes and class group pictures are ready and available on the photographer's website! You can access her website via our website - click Students, then School Photography and you will be redirected to her page. Even if your child did not get solo photos done, log in to get a **FREE** download of your child's class photo! A login access link was emailed directly to you by Annette Heck Photography (check your spam folder in case it got filtered there). All orders are due by Sunday, March 26! The proofing gallery will no longer be available after this date. If you have questions, contact Annette directly.

## BLOOD DRIVE

One donation can save up to 3 lives! Standifer Gap Church is hosting a Blood Drive in the lower parking lot on Sabbath, March 25. Sign up for a time slot between 9 am and 2 pm at [bloodassurance.org/sda](http://bloodassurance.org/sda). If you would like to give, make sure you eat a good meal and drink plenty of non-caffeinated fluids beforehand.

## REMEMBER THIS

### \* Card Processing Fee

There will be a 5% fee applied to all card payments made in the front office. We encourage you to make payments by cash, check or ACH online.

### \* Student Progress

Parents can check grades with their FACTS Family Portal login.

### \* Snack Shop

Students can purchase a snack in the front office for \$1. Those without cash will be charged to their hot lunch account.

### \* Online Payments

You can pay tuition, hot lunch and more online through the link on our website. Please use the ACH (direct debit) option!!

### \* Ukulele/Guitar

Wednesdays & Fridays at 7:30 am in the music room.

### \* Support & Shop





# MARCH

## Birthdays

LIAM

SERENITY

ERIC

SOPHIA

MAR 3

MAR 7

MAR 15

MAR 27

## CALENDAR REMINDERS

- Mar 22 - Pathfinders 6:30 pm
- Mar 23 - SGS Soccer Home Game Vs LTES 5 pm
- Mar 25 - Blood Drive @ SG Church 9 am - 2 pm
- Mar 27 - NO SCHOOL - Parent/Teacher Conf.
- Mar 31 - Agape Feast 6:00 pm
- Apr 7 - NO SCHOOL - Good Friday
- Apr 29 - Education Sabbath (All Grades)

## MORE LIKE JESUS

By Stephanie Land

Often, Christians are told to just believe without thinking... it's called "having faith." But is this what God wants from us? To be mindless robots - having blind faith, following the rules, obeying without thinking and out of fear of what would happen if we didn't obey? Does God want us to be like slaves who just do what their master says because he says so, or does He want us to be His friends? "No longer do I call you slaves, *for the slave does not know what his master is doing*; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you." John 15:15 (NASU) I believe that God wants us to question, think, reason, trust and understand Him... like a friend. The Bible invites us to "come and reason" and even links this with cleansing and salvation (Isaiah 1:18). So, with that in mind, let's think through to understand the purpose of the cross. The following are phrases I've often heard or read, and questions that come to mind when I process what has been said:

### **"Jesus died on the cross so my sins can be forgiven."**

Did Jesus's death do something to change God to be forgiving? Would God be unable/unwilling to forgive me if I don't know about Jesus? Isn't God always forgiving? Didn't Jesus even forgive those that crucified Him? Isn't God "more like Jesus"?

### **"Jesus had to die to pay the penalty for our sins."**

Who is paid this penalty? Where does the penalty come from? God? Satan? Is sin a legal problem that requires an external force to inflict punishment for disobedience? Or is sin a terminal condition that breaks God's design for life and thus is a natural consequence of what happens when we are out of harmony with how life is suppose to operate?

### **"Jesus had to die to cancel our debts."**

Wait... does he PAY or FORGIVE/CANCEL our debts? You can't forgive/cancel a debt that has been paid. If you owe me \$100 and then you pay it, it doesn't make sense for me to say, "Okay, I will forgive your debt now."

### **"God must punish sin."**

Again, where does the penalty of sin come from? Does it come from God as an infliction for breaking His rules? Or as an inherent consequence for being out of harmony with the way God designed life to function? Should I be afraid of God or of sin?

### **"Jesus' sacrifice appeased the wrath of God."**

Does Jesus save me from God? And what exactly is the wrath of God? Is Jesus forgiving and loving, but God is angry and judgmental? Can I trust Jesus, but not trust God? Aren't they supposed to be the same? Is God two-faced?

Can you answer these questions without saying, "I don't know, but I just have faith and believe even though I don't understand"? None of these questions are meant to undermine God, but to shed light on the harm in blind faith. How can you truly trust a God that you think is functionally saying, "Obey me and love me or else I'll kill you"? How can we truly know God and actually trust Him if we think that Jesus is saving us from what God would have to do to us if we didn't believe in Him and obey Him? I can tell you what helped me to answer these questions... shifting my understanding of God's law from an arbitrary, imposed set of rules to the design parameters for life to exist. If you are interested in studying the cross through the lens of design law, I encourage you to read "Bible Texts Reveal Why Jesus Had to Die" (<https://comeandreason.com/bible-texts-reveal-why-jesus-had-to-die2/>) at Come and Reason Ministries.