

# THE Thinker

Issue 1

60th Session

June 8, 2018



## GPGC Celebrates 60 Sessions

By Antonio Alphonse

This summer marks the 60th session of the Governor's Program for Gifted Children at McNeese State University, and student and alumni events are slated to mark the occasion.

In 1959, Dr. George Middleton started the program as the McNeese Summer Enrichment Program, a day program designed to address issues gifted children deal with in school, such as boredom and social issues. After Gov. John McKei then approved funding for the program in 1964, it was renamed the Governor's Program for Gifted Children.

Dr. Middleton served as the director

until his death in 2008. Joshua Brown is the current program director.

The 60th celebration is woven throughout the fabric of the summer.

The annual end-of-summer musical production will be Middleton's all-time favorite, *Brigadoon*. The chorus will be singing music popular from around the time of the founding of the program along with requests from alumni.

The Friends of the GPGC, a nonprofit that helps support the GPGC, announced plans for a 60th reunion. The reunion, scheduled for July 19-22, will include a meetup, an alumni spotlight, a reception and a dance. There will also be a One-Man Show and an alumni speaker, Dr.

Robert Svoboda.

Similar to the 50th session, a new color Brain Buck was to be released to mark the anniversary, worth a whopping 60 cents and set to be purple. However, Brown said the cost of the production was prohibitive, so the red 50th session Brain Bucks will instead increase in value by 10 cents.

Most of the anniversary events will take place on the McNeese campus, while the meetup will be at Rikenjaks Brewing Company.

Alumni who miss the community of GPGC can opt to stay in a dorm, complete with roommate requests and suite sharing.

## Guatemala Rocked by Volcanic Eruptions

By Mike Hyatt

Guatemala's Volcan de Fuego erupted around noon on June 3. The destruction continued as lava began flowing from the volcano soon after. Nearby villages were coated in ash.

The Guatemalan disaster management agency, CONRED, estimates that more than 100 people have been killed and countless others injured, with various media outlets reporting that the search is continuing. About 3,100 refugees have fled. Guatemala City's airport was also closed due to dangers posed by the eruption.

Guatemala's President Jimmy Morales said he planned to declare a state of emergency.

Rescue workers, firefighters, and military personnel are still working to provide relief for those affected.

Russia and Israel are among countries that have promised aid.



View of Vulcan de Fuego  
Image courtesy Sputnik International

## Freshmen Excited after First Week of GPGC

By Aiden Manuel

The 60th Session of the Governor's Program for Gifted Children has finally begun, and new and old students have moved in and started class. The first week is usually the most daunting and off-putting time for our first year students, but it seems like most of the new gifties are having a great time.

Freshman Izzy Jackson said, "I was really nervous and thought I was gonna be really homesick, but the classes are great and the older kids are helping me feel welcome."

Mark DeFalco and Cate Anderson said they were both "super excited to be in the musical."

Ethan Long also expressed his surprise concerning "all the freedom we have in terms of like checking out," which is a common joy shared by many GPGC students.

Many Freshmen said they are looking forward to just relaxing on the weekends and having a great time at the dances, and just meeting new people and making new friends.

In short, our first-years have enjoyed their first week ever at the GPGC and are very excited and ready for the events yet to come this summer.

# GPGC Weekends:

## Have the Time of Your Life While Being Yourself

By Kamryn Keys

Weekends at GPGC are a time to forget the troubles of the week. You have the freedom to sleep in or spend the night in a friend's room (to get some "quality time" away from your roommate).

Several Gifties mentioned being able to check out earlier in the day to escape Collette Hall. Plus, they said the first weekend is when you finally can turn some attention to that growing pile of dirty laundry.

But weekends at GPGC are not only the time for laundry runs and midnight ramen, they are the time for new experiences and activities. For example, where else are you going to support the Seniors except through Senior Store or Dough-

nut Delivery?

The first dance of the summer, during the program's first weekend, is when you become a part of the GPGC family *for real*. You dance to the traditional dances and finally cut loose. You become part of tradition.

Gifties come to this program to learn, but the weekends are when we can have fun and forget about all the academic ties between us: it's when we can just be people. We relax if we want, or we work if we feel like it.

Classes are where adults finally treat us like intellectual equals, but the weekend is when we can remember to be children.

Remember to enjoy everything about GPGC, weekends included.



Weekends include Saturday dances, like this one from the 2017 session.

## Budget Tips: Watch Early Spending

By Aiden Manuel

One of the best parts about GPGC is getting paid for making good grades in your classes and also having good behavior.

While it may be great to finally get your own money instead of your parents dispensing it to you via allowances, the main issue most Gifties run into is saving their money.

Usually, most people are so excited for all the activities on the first weekend that they end up spending all their hard-earned cash in one fell swoop and having nothing to spend later on.

Alpha Bronson Jordan said he spent \$8 on the first Sweet Frog outing his first year, leaving him short of funds later.

Here are some tips for budgeting at the Governor's Program.

- Always think about whether or not the item you want is worth it. Something like a consumable item or a small dorm accessory isn't very necessary for you or your wallet.
- If you're on a trip or special outing, try to buy as little as possible. Gifties generally take trips to the movie theater, and if you're trying to have some money after payday, getting a jumbo popcorn and a large Coke may not be the best option.
- Think about how much money you'd like to take home at the end of the program. All the money you still have by the end of the last week is yours to keep.

If you want a bit to take home once the 60th summer is over, spend as little as possible to maximize your haul.

## Hygiene Means Good Smells, Health

By Sarah Roldan

Governor's program is a fun place, but sometimes it can stink. No, I'm not talking about the food!

Hygiene is an important part of staying healthy while living in a dorm. It is critical that everyone showers and wears clean clothes, not only to smell good but also to remain feeling good.

Let's be honest, as teenagers we sweat a lot! Sweating can often lead to smelling really bad. One surefire way to help you stay fresh is taking showers.

When in the shower please use soap or body wash, shampoo, and conditioner so that you are clean and have nice hair.

An article from *EDU-InReview*, a publication about higher education, also stresses the importance of

wearing shower shoes so you don't contract a foot fungus.

According to Cengage Brainiac, washing your hands often will also keep you healthy and rid you of disease-causing germs.

Remember that body spray does not act as soap. Body spray sits on your skin and masks smells while soap washes away dirt.

Another part of keeping yourself healthy is washing your clothes. We wear the same shirts basically every day, so those shirts collect sweat and dead skin cells.

There are laundry facilities in the dorm, and a counselor or another Giftie would be happy to help if you haven't done laundry before.

Please wash those shirts and all your other clothes to cleanse yourself of that disgusting stuff.



# Freshie Facts 2018

Name	Favorite Cafeteria Food	Favorite Color	Ideal Vacation Spot	Spirit Animal
<b>Cate Anderson</b>	Water	Blue	Italy	Colin Broussard
<b>Eddie Boudreaux</b>	Chicken Nuggets	Orange	Tropical Island	Dog
<b>Adair Brown</b>	French Toast Sticks	Blue	London	Rat
<b>Caleb Caldwell</b>	Apple Juice	Red	Disney World	Lion
<b>Zoe Cappel</b>	Water	Blue	Fiji	Nickolas Walling
<b>Mark DeFalco</b>	Lemonade	Red	Universal Studios	Sloth
<b>Belle Fine</b>	Burgers	Blue	NY Broadway Theater	Wolf
<b>Izzy Jackson</b>	French Fries	Purple	Greece	Turtle
<b>Wesley Koonce</b>	Spaghetti	Blue	Cozumel	Bottle Nose Dolphin
<b>Kadin LeBlanc</b>	Pizza	Red	Tropical Island	Eagle
<b>Ethan Long</b>	Pizza	Purple	Venice, Italy	Dog
<b>Lakshmi Nair</b>	Pizza	White	Rocky Mountains	Wolf
<b>Matthew Robert</b>	Coconut Cake	Black	Australia	Wolf
<b>Toby Shieff</b>	Pizza	Grey	Japan	Wolf
<b>Collin Semien</b>	Burgers	Blue	Quebec	Tortoise
<b>Condi Semien</b>	Anything Edible	Blue	Venice, Italy	Unicorn
<b>Grace Simien</b>	Pizza	Blue	Gulf Shores	Horse
<b>Neely Teekell</b>	French Fries	Purple	Beach	Llama
<b>Ella Theriot</b>	Water	Maroon	Hawaii	Snake
<b>Victoria Todman</b>	Chocolate Cake	Magenta	Jeju Island	Dog
<b>Hailey Williams</b>	Nachos	Green	Schlitterbahn	Dog

## Seen & Heard

“D.I.Y. Parkinson's”

-Ben Songy

“It’s the smell! Smell my hands!”

-Mike Hyatt

“I can’t focus, I’m too busy staring at your tiny nostrils.”

-Sydney Brummett

“Stop blowing on me, Ryan, I’m supposed to be dead!”

-Aiden Manuel

“Jake, do you want to help me get silly?”

-Julia Day

“Starting now, everyone’s mouths are now irrelevant.”

-Robert Markstrom

“All the munchkins are dead.”

-Mike Hyatt

“Have you ever heard of the measurement unit ‘nib?’”

-Liam Hopper

“No circumcision in the shop.”

-Billy Hogan

“Why have I never stopped to consider the finer points of castration?”

-Bronson Jordan

“I do not want to hear your rees.”

-Jessica Markstrom

## Wanna be in the Thinker?

Any GPGC student, staff or alumni is welcome to submit freelance articles, photos, or other content for consideration.

Contact the Editor or an Assistant Editor for more information!

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