

The Thinker



Issue 1

63rd Session

June 9, 2023

Dances, Weekends, Government Extend Decades-Long Giftie Traditions, History Weekends Mean Giftie Adventure Time

By Elizabeth B.

When you get back from classes on Friday, you may notice a note slipped under your door. This is the weekend schedule.

The weekend schedule, which is made out each week by the counselors, provides useful information regarding our weekend activities.

Each week the counselors plan a unique schedule, sometimes

organized around a theme. But some elements of the schedule stay the same each week.

On Friday we will watch a movie down in the lobby. (Remember to bring your pillows!)

The name of the movie will not be specifically on the schedule, so it's up to you to figure it out, using the references hidden throughout the schedule.

On Saturday and Sunday, Gifties can go on

different trips mentioned in the schedule. On Saturday there will also be a dance.

Kathy Barrios, Coordinator of Housing, said counselors work together to plan weekends that keep all the traditions but aren't overwhelming

Sundae Sundays are a new tradition Barrios said will be on the schedule again this year. Sundays at 7 p.m., Gifties have the chance to build their own sundaes in the lobby.



(Above) Gifties hold a baby alligator on a 2022 weekend trip. (Right) The Sunday Sundae bar.



Photos courtesy of GPGC

Elections: Vote to Have a Voice

By Jace S. and Roman K.

The Giftie government gives students a chance to propose legislation, adjudicate rules, and have a say in the way the program runs.

Each summer, students elect peers to serve in roles that help uphold and protect the ways of the Governor's Program for Gifted Children. This year's government will consist of three main positions.

President

The president is the role with the most responsibility and is generally reserved for returning students.

They must watch over meetings, approve or veto new bills, and make sure GPGC is running smoothly and effectively.

Secretary

The secretary keeps



records of meetings. They must track people's votes on certain policies/rules that may be added to the program and must make sure their records are accurate.

Justices

The justices are three students responsible for Ticket Court, where students who received tickets may contest them.

Justices hear arguments from both sides and decide based on each side's claims about what led to the ticket. If the justices uphold the ticket, the student's pay is docked to pay the fine.

Ticket court is generally twice a week.

Saturday Dances Mix Old and New

By Maddy W.

The GPGC Dances are held in the lobby of our beloved dorm every Saturday night.

The program has held dances on the weekends for many years - so many that it has become an official tradition.

In previous years, dances were held in the LaJeunesse Room in McNeese's Old Ranch. When the program restarted in 2022, Gifties stayed in the lobby for dances.

Throughout the years, Gifties have accumulated many traditional songs played at almost every dance.

Some of the traditional songs are "Stairway to Heaven," "Hotel California," "Bohemian Rhapsody," "Stacy's Mom," and "American Pie."

Many traditional songs have dance moves or lyrics that have been made or modified by Gifties

especially for GPGC.

Regardless of whether you know these songs or not, we can assure you that at the dances, you will make so many memories and maybe even find a new favorite song.



Photo courtesy GPGC

Giftie and current counselor Clay Brummett at a 2017 dance.

Seen and Heard

“I’ve lost my pickle privileges.” - Jolie B. *Stares at a possum* “I’d chew it. That’s what we do in New Orleans.” - Sol C.

Talking about Werewolf
 “So it’s like ‘Among Us!’?” - Madelyn W. “He’s a pimply boy.” *squeezes cheek* - Azula T. to Julien V.

“My pronouns are U/S/A.” - Azula T. “Rock... Pebble... STONEY!” - Roman K.

“Mr. Acorn Dude, that’s the scientific name.” - Christa Bell
 “Misterial Acornious Dudas” (doo-duhs) - Maddy W. “I have muscular fingers.” - Samantha Holland

“It’s just like The Beatles.” - Amelia L. *Speaks in a high and squeaky voice* “I love little children. They taste like chicken.” - Jolie B.

“Oohgally Boohgally.” - Maddy W. “I love King Julien.” - Sol C.

Word Jumble

Earlier on, you read about the GPGC Dances. There, you will find some clues to help you decipher the following traditional songs. You can ask a returning student for any help if needed. Have fun!

NAMOHBBIE HADRSYOP	IREMCAAN IEP
TSWARYAI OT EHNVAE	TCSASY OMM
OHETL FALAONCLIRI	ITME PRAW
OVLE HASKC	CPAHEA

Dog of the Week

By Elizabeth B. and Jolie F.

Pembroke Welsh Corgi

Although Corgis are stubby and are only about 12 inches tall, they are incredibly active dogs.

According to the American Kennel Club, Corgis were bred to herd and protect their owners from small animals, such as rodents. Their short stature means Corgis are too short to be kicked.



Image from AZAnimals.com via iStock photos/Karyna Demianiuk

Along with their working dog origins, Corgis have more mystical appeal. According to Welsh folklore, Corgis were thought to be the steeds of fairies. The orange on their back is where the fairies rode.

In modern times, Corgis have also played an important role in pop culture. The late Queen Elizabeth II owned more than 30 Corgis, according to Reader’s Digest.

Word of the Week

witenagemot

[wit-n-uh-guh-moht]
noun

An Anglo-Saxon council made up of a varying number of nobles, prelates, and influential officials that convened from time to time to advise the king on administrative and judicial matters.

“Wooden! No...Kitten game!” - Sol C.
 “When someone is witenagemot, they’re stricken by an illness or something.” - Madelyn W.
 “A type of gumbo.” - Jace S.

Dumb Questions Weekly

By Elizabeth B.

A compilation of five completely random questions that three completely random people answered! This week answers includes a GPGC alumnus!

What is your opinion on dirt?

Lydee: “Dirt is cool... but don’t be dirt.”
 Azula: *in southern accent* “It needs to get off my shoes!”
 Abe: “Oh, I eat it every day.”

Mushrooms or Lichen?

Lydee: “Mushrooms, ‘cause why not?”
 Azula: *in southern accent* “Mushrooms.”
 Abe: “Lichen.”

Slay queen?

Lydee: “Yas queen, slay all day!”
 Azula: *in southern accent* “Nass.”
 Abe: “Nah.”

Why did the chicken cross the road?

Lydee: “To come out of the closet.”
 Azula: *in southern accent* “To get to the other side.”
 Abe: “That’s a question that’s still debated to this day.”

Ping pong or table tennis?

Lydee: “Um... table tennis.”
 Azula: *in southern accent* “Your mom.”
 Abe: “Ping pong.”

Want to Write for The Thinker?

All Gifties and staff are welcome to submit articles to The Thinker. Deadlines are Wednesdays. Submit articles to thethinker@gpgc.org.

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