

The Thinker

Issue 1

65th Session

June 13, 2025



Fathers and Gifties: Father's Day at GPGC

By Kathy Barrios

"Fatherhood is setting the best example for your children through your words and deeds, how you treat your loved ones, all people and yourself." - Joshua Brown, 2025

"Fatherhood serves as a life-long guide and example of how to lead in the world." - Adair Brown, 2025

Mr. Brown, director of the Governor's Program for Gifted Children, said he was "full of joy" when his daughter Adair decided to attend the Program as a student in 2018.

Adair said she was initially quite nervous to attend as she

was coming in as the Director's daughter, and she was arriving a week late to the Program. Neither of them anticipated many challenges of both being at the Program.

Adair, once she settled in, said she was very happy to be spending the days with her Dad, something she didn't usually get to do in the summer because the director lives on site in the dorm. As the summer progressed, Mr. Brown said he was a little nervous that Adair might feel embarrassed by his interactions with the other students, especially those at morning meetings.

"Father's Day always falls during the program, and every time I wonder if the students wish my dad happy Father's Day

or give him cards," Adair Brown said. "I always hoped they did. As a counselor, I've seen how kids and adults view my dad, which has made me appreciate him even more."

This summer, the Browns had similar feelings to that first summer Adair spent as a student.

Mr. Brown said he was "really so happy" when Adair said she was interested in being a counselor. He said he believes the current students will appreciate her insight and perspective on the goings-on of the Program.

Both Adair and Mr. Brown thought similarly of potential challenges of her being in this role this summer. Adair said she was initially worried about

other counselors perceiving favoritism, while Mr. Brown was worried that he would have trouble treating her like the other counselors - because it is hard when it's your own daughter.

"Being the director of the Governor's Program isn't always fun, especially when the Program isn't in session," Mr. Brown said. "But it's the best job in the world for me - mainly because of the knowledge that I have the opportunity to give students the same opportunities and experiences that Dr. Middleton and other teachers here gave to me. It's a great honor, and it warms my heart to think that I have positively impacted a person in such a way for them to think of me as a father figure."

Giftie 101: Making the Most of GPGC

Fresh Advice for Gifties

By Lucas C.

As a first year student at GPGC, you might want some advice for your first weekend here.

One big piece of advice was not to be afraid to socialize. Both counselor Abigail Nolan and Grad Lizzie Bell both said time spent with classmates was crucial to having a great Giftie experience.

"Try to spend as much time in the lobby as you can," Bell said. "It helps you make friends. You don't want to be a hermit."

Gifties can spend free time in their rooms in the evenings and on weekends, but evening free time in the lobby can include games, music and socializing with old and new friends.

The counselors plan a weekend schedule full of themed activities for each weekend. The schedule is a secret until Friday evening, but past years' themes have included Opposite Weekend, Hobbits, Shrek and the Princess Bride.

Other advice: "Wash clothes on a weekly basis and don't wait till Sunday," Nolan said. Although the first weekend's schedule includes a how-to session on laundry, Gifties can wash their clothes in the evenings which means there's not as much competition for machines.

And, even though Gifties attend three academic classes every day, "Don't stress about classes or homework," said Sophomore Juan Gamboa.

Looking Ahead to Big Events

By Lizzie B.

There are many big events that occur over the summer that are part of the larger traditions of the Program.

Every weekend there will be a movie night and a dance, and the weekend schedule will be themed after the movie.

The last two dances will be the costume dance, where you dress up, and the formal dance, where you dress up formally.

There are several traditional songs at these dances that may be considered big events, including Rasputin, which you may have heard of already.

Other big events include soccer every Friday after classes, as well as werewolf at the same time.

There will be a Fourth of July break where students will return home for a few days, but the Program picks back up Sunday after 2 p.m.

Towards the end of the summer there will be the Grad fruit drop, where the Grads will do their best to make the most putrid, foul things to throw from the top floor of Gayle and watch splat (then clean up).

The Seniors will take their Senior trip around this time as well and will return to their rooms to find their Senior pranks, mischief created while they are away. They must clean these up before the dance.

While the Seniors are on their trip, there will be a movie double

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Friday the 13th: A Spooky History of the Day

By Lucas C.

Modern superstitions about Friday the 13th and the dread that comes with it can be traced, in part, to Norse gods and Templar knights.

According to History.com, the origin of the superstitions around Friday the 13th and the number 13 itself are unknown, but the superstitions themselves date back centuries.

In the Norse tradition, Loki, the Norse trickster god, crashed a banquet in Valhalla as the thirteenth guest. At the banquet, Loki arranges for Hodr, the god of darkness, to shoot Balder, the god of joy and gladness, with a

mistletoe-tipped arrow. Balder's death triggered much suffering in the world, which caused the number 13 to be considered unlucky.

In 1307, King Phillip IV of France arrested hundreds of the Knights Templar, a powerful religious and military order founded in the 12th Century for defense of the Holy Lands. According to History.com, the French government was deep in debt to the Templar Knights at the time, and Phillip took it as a way to not have to pay his debt.

In pop culture, Friday the 13th has been a main plot point in movies and books.

In Thomas William Lawson's

book *Friday the thirteenth*, the book tells the story of a New York City stockbroker who plays on superstitions about the date to create chaos on Wall Street and make a killing on the market.

You may have also have heard of the Friday the 13th horror movie franchise.

The series started in the 1980s when the world was introduced to a hockey mask-wearing killer named Jason.

The Friday the 13th movie series currently includes



Image from Dreamstime.com

12 movies. According to ScreenRant, a movie industry website, there are no concrete plans for a 13th.

Gifties in Week 1: Life at GPGC

Clockwise from right:
Drawing working on creating characters from written descriptions. (Bottom right) Blocking *Into the Woods*, the show for this summer. (Bottom) Hanging out in the dorm lobby. (Below) Rehearsing in the stairwell.



Events

Continued from page 1

feature, and then the movie night before the formal dance will not be a movie night, but it will be Bilbo Baggins' Birthday celebration!

During this annual event, the Gifties will get cookie cake, milk, and will take turns reading *The Hobbit* from the ending point last Summer.

Bepuzzlement Answers

modern switches.
active. It would not work with heat up when the circuit was old light switches used to This works because very then switch three is correct. correct, and if it is off and cold is off and warm, switch one is on, switch two is correct, if it enter the room, if the light is off and turn on switch two. it on for a minute, then flip it Flip switch one and leave

Logic Puzzle Answer

A Shadow
Bookkeeper

Weekly Book Review

Crime and Punishment

By Lizzie B.

Crime and Punishment is like Snow White and the Seven Dwarves but with murder and not at all.

(Warning, this review will contain spoilers!)

The book follows the story of a poor former student named Rodion Romanovich or Raskolnikov. He had a theory that extraordinary men who contributed to society with their thinking were above the law, and to test this theory he murders an old money lender and, accidentally, her sister.

It's such an interesting book because it seems dark and horrible at first but, like an onion (or an ogre) it has layers.

Raskolnikov is such an interesting character because he really does seem very human. He feels guilt after killing the old woman and he has interesting interpersonal relationships that suffer from his paranoia.

After he kills the money lender he manages to barely escape and from the moment he makes it home he feels paranoid. He starts to realize everything he did wrong and begins to withdraw from social interactions.

Before he committed the murder he received a letter from his mother, letting him know they would be coming to Petersburg,

the city where he was living, and that his sister was getting married.

After he commits the murder he falls into delirium, having odd dreams and almost seeming feverish, although he isn't ill. It is in this state that an old friend, Razumikhin, comes by and begins to try to help him.

Time passes and Raskolnikov slowly recovers from his fever and delirium, but he continues to be fearful and anxious. When he is recovering he meets the man his sister is to marry, Petr Petrovich.

He insults him and tells him to get out, because he doesn't want his sister to marry a man like that for him.

More time progresses and he meets Sonya Semyanova through her father, who passed away.

Part of why this book is so interesting is the relationship between Sonya and Raskolnikov.

When you think of true love you might think of a Disney movie, but I think this book is the definition of true love.

Sonya meets Raskolnikov through her father, who Raskolnikov had made friends with at a bar a few weeks before. They met when he was hit by a carriage and trampled, and Raskolnikov gave them money to help with the funeral.

Sonya was friends with the old woman's sister and after

Raskolnikov comes clean she's distraught but also wants to help him.

She helps him find faith and she gets him to turn himself in, when he is then exiled to Siberia and she goes with him.

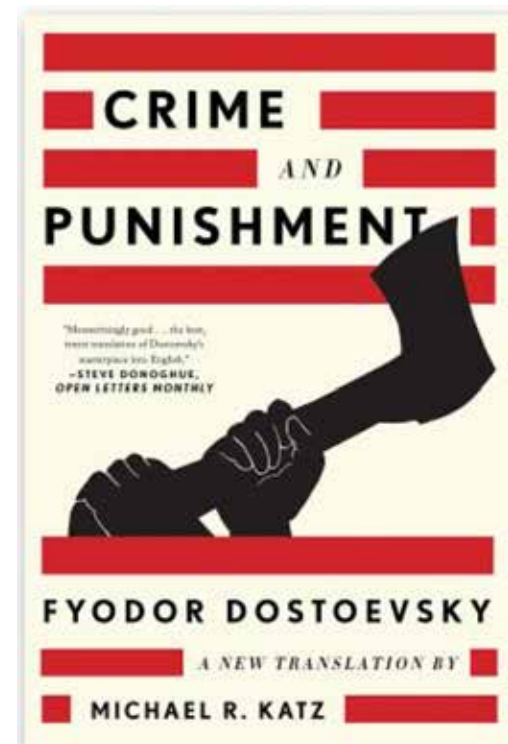
She still loves him even though he's a murderer, and it is implied she waited 7 years for him to get out of prison.

Razumikhin and Raskolnikov's sister, Dunya get married as well, and planned to move to the town where Raskolnikov was imprisoned after 4 years to wait with Sonya for him.

All the characters seem human, and many of them show incredible love and compassion for each other, Raskolnikov's friends and family waiting for him even after he told them what he'd done.

Another reason this book is so amazing is that it develops almost every single character, whether they take the main stage or not, but almost every one does.

Raskolnikov is a real person struggling with ideas bigger than himself and a financial situation almost impossible to live in.



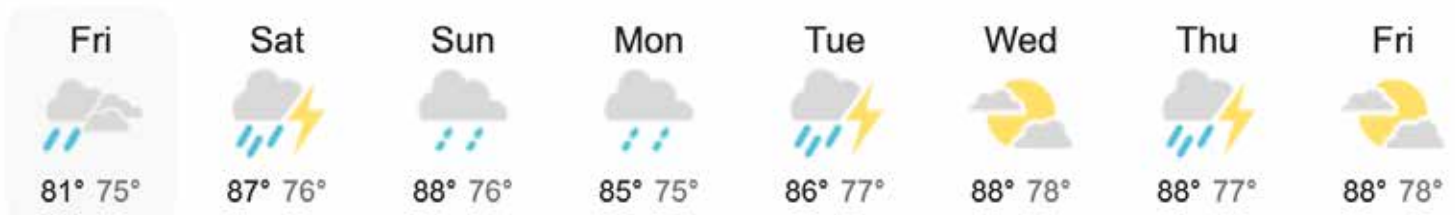
Dunya is a caring sister doing all she can to help her mother and brother even though she'd end up last and knew it.

Razumikhin is a caring friend who wants the best for Raskolnikov and keeps trying to help even after he is pushed away.

Sonya is a resilient and kind young woman who holds so much, maybe even too much, genuine love in her heart for the people around her and does her best to help those she cares about.

All of these seem like they could be real people in the setting, and they're all masterfully written and, like the story, they have layers.

Weekly Weather Forecast



Seen and Heard

"This cured nihilism."

-Elizabeth about Nyango

"He/Her. Like a donkey."

-Madelyn W.

"Yeah, Apollo was a gay

femboy." -Abe Miller

"We can't show these children

their rights." -Adair Brown

"Which one? Tibula or fibula?"

-Juan G.

"I will smooch ANYONE!!

LINE UP!!!!" -Maddy W.

"Your arm will snap on my big
beefy meat neck."

-Tori L.

"I don't know if the toilets flush
on their own." -Amelia LaHaye

"It's OK, leave someone a
present for later." -Sir Jack

"I'm having an aneurysm."

-Juan G.

"I like salsa

I have no hope for tomorrow."

-Maddy W.

"I forgot I was a girl."

-Blythe H.

"Yeah, they're definitely doing
witchcraft again."

-Jonah C.

"Jonah is a collective

hallucination bent on making us
insane." -Henry C.

"I think Henry is a fed."

-Abe Miller

"That class should be called

Existential Dread 101."

-Kathy Barrios

Cats vs. Dogs

By Henry C.

Dogs are more common pets
than cats in our country

According to the American
Veterinary Medical Association
(AVMA), households with dog
ownership are numbered at 59.8
million, while cat houses are only
42.2 million strong.

Cats make up 32.1% of
household ownings, while dogs
make up 45.5, making them the
two most popular US pets. Fish
make up 2.9%, reptiles 1.8%,

Birds Are 1.6%, Small mammals
make 1%, Rabbits are 0.7,
Poultry 0.5, And Horses Are 0.5
also.

Gifties have differing
opinions about whether their
preferred pet.

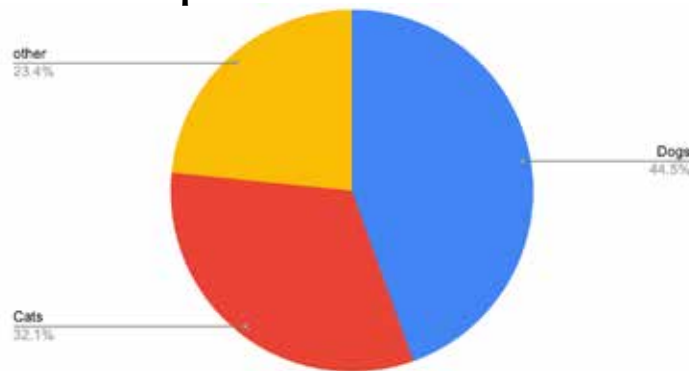
"Dogs are always in the mood
to play with you," said counselor
Abe Miller.

Freshman Aahan Chopade
disagreed.

"Cats are cute," he said.

"Cats are just better."

Pet ownership in the U.S.



Source: American Veterinary Medical Association

Bepuzzlement

By Henry C.

Riddles

Only one color, but not one size,
Stuck at the bottom, yet easily flies,
Present in sun but not rain,
Doing no harm and Feeling no rain.
What am I?

What English word has three consecutive double
letters?

Logic Puzzle

There are three old-fashioned light switches in a
room. You know that one of them controls a lightbulb
in a different room, and you must find out which one
controls the light, but you can only enter the room
once. What do you do?

Word of the Week

By Henry C.

Mageirocophobia

ma gei ri co pho bia

The fear of cooking.

"Fear of Big things" -Abe
Miller

"Fear of Magic" -Aahan
Chopade

"Fear of Worms" -Jonah
Constantino

"Fear of Sorcery" -Patrick
McCroskey

"Fear of Jonah" -Juan
Gamboa

"Fear of being followed by a
duck." -Tori LeBlanc

Want to Write for The Thinker?

All Gifties and staff are
welcome to submit articles to
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thethinker@gpgc.org.

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