Fake News is Old News

Students in Mrs. Smith’s 8th grade Georgia Studies class studied fake news from the 1870’s. Most of the students thought fake news was a new problem in America and related it to the modern news media and President Trump’s election. Students were given 2 articles to read that were written about daily life in the colony of Georgia. One was an article written by James Oglethorpe, the founder of Georgia, in which he described daily life in his new colony. He reported that the climate in Georgia was “perfect” and that life in colonial Georgia was easy. The second article was an excerpt taken from the journal of Peter Gordon, one of the first colonists to arrive in Georgia, and it also described the conditions of life in the colony of Georgia.

Students were asked to read these two primary sources with a partner, compare and contrast the information provided in each, and decide who the more credible source is. They were quick to see the differences in the ways these two men described the weather and living
conditions in the 13th colony. Soniya explained, “It’s obvious what James Oglethorpe is up to. He’s trying to get people for his colony by exaggerating how perfect life would be for them there. He says that it’s never too hot in Georgia. That’s funny.” Zhariel added, “Peter Gordon actually lived in Georgia and wasn’t trying to get anybody to do anything. So it makes sense that his description of life in Georgia would be more honest.”

Overall, students weren’t surprised that fake news existed in the 1700’s. Lanyjah explained, “People have probably been over exaggerating and stretching the truth to get people to think their way forever.” Students felt that it’s important to know who is telling or writing the news and why the person wrote it. Karma said, “If you didn’t know who James Oglethorpe was or why he wrote his article, you might believe the things he wrote. Since we know why he wrote it, we know to read it more carefully and not believe everything he said. Plus, anybody that lives in Georgia knows that the weather is not perfect!” Avery agreed, “That’s true. We know Gordon was just a regular person that lived in Georgia who was describing his real life. He wasn’t trying to persuade anybody so we know he’s a more credible source for how life really was in Georgia at that time.”

Students felt that this assignment was relevant to their lives because it’s
important that they know who is telling the news and why. Savanna said, “There’s so much news and information out there that it can be confusing who is being honest and who is trying to get you to think their way or do something that benefits them. So it’s important that we know who is writing or saying something and why so we can be smart and spot fake news. That way we won’t make important decisions based on information that isn’t even true.”

Reminders & Updates:

Middle School Field Trip: Rock Eagle - Mar. 18-22, 2019
- The deadline for the final payment is Friday, February 22.
- Payment Due Dates:
  - Final Payment: February 22

Bake Sale Feb. 14
- We are in need of items for our bake sale, Thursday, February 14. Please deliver your individually bagged/wrapped items by Wednesday, February 13. Remember to turn in your receipts for Parent Volunteer Credits. Students may also log community service hours for bake sale preparation.

Parent Awareness Meeting: Monday, February 25
- We will have a special Parent Awareness Meeting for our high school students on Monday, February 25. This session will be a Georgia College Informational Session regarding dual enrollment and regular admission. All high school students and parents are strongly encouraged to attend. 8th grade students and parents are welcome to attend, also. To attend, students must register using the following link: http://www.gcsu.edu/nearyou.

Senior Information
- The Balfour representative, Mrs. Amanda Green, will be on campus Monday, February 11, 12:00-1:00 p.m.
- Senior Farewell Speeches are due February 25.
- Senior ads for the yearbook are due February 28.
- Senior ladies, remember, you must purchase your cotillion gown by March 1.
- Remember to complete your Senior Dues payment by February 14.
WHAT'S HAPPENING AT GCEC: Feb. 11-18

Monday, February 11
- GCEC Spirit Week: "Western Day"
- 12:00 p.m.- Balfour Rep @ GCEC for BHS Seniors
- 5:30 p.m.- Parent Advisory Council Meeting

Tuesday, February 12
- GCEC Spirit Week: "Teen Dating Violence Awareness Day"
- 2:45 p.m.- Afterschool Tutoring
- 5:30 p.m.- BCSD BOE Meeting: GCEC Presentation
- 6:00 p.m.- Junior Ballroom Dance Practice
- 7:00 p.m.- Senior Ballroom Dance Practice

Wednesday, February 13
- GCEC Spirit Week: "College Spirit Day"
- 10:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.- GMC College & Career Job Fair
  - All high school students are encouraged to attend with their teachers.
- 2:45 p.m.- Afterschool Tutoring
- 4:00 p.m.- Yearbook Planning Meeting (Ms. Harris & Ms. Hillsman)

Thursday, February 14
- GCEC Spirit Week: "Throwback Thursday"
- 10:00 a.m.- GCEC Talent Show
- 2:45 p.m.- Afterschool Tutoring

Friday, February 15
- BCSD (GCEC) Winter Break
  - No middle or high school classes
  - College classes will be in session.

Saturday, February 16
- GC Homecoming Day
- 11:00 a.m.- GC Homecoming Parade
  - Mr. & Miss GCEC and Mr. & Miss Senior will be in the parade.
- 3:30 p.m.- GC Homecoming Women's Basketball Game
  - Free admission with Bobcat Card
- 6:00 p.m.- GC Homecoming Men's Basketball Game
  - Free admission with Bobcat Card
  - Mr. & Miss GCEC will be announced at the end

Congratulations, GCEC Homecoming Court 2019

Congratulations to our GCEC Homecoming Court 2019:
- Miss Senior: Ani Spring
- Mr. Senior: Javin Wiggins
- Miss GCEC: Makaleiah Wells
- Mr. GCEC: Dylan Sallad
#GCEC2019 #BaldwinProud #PutnamProud
Monday, February 18
- BCSD (GCEC) Winter Break
  - No middle and high school classes
  - College class will be in session.

Important Links:
- GCEC Student & Parent Calendar
- GCEC Jacket Order Form
- GCEC Student Community Service Log
- GCEC Parent Volunteer Credit Log
- GCEC Senior 2019 Yearbook Ads
- GCEC Yearbook Pictures SY19

Respect, Caring, Integrity, & Personal Responsibility