

## MEMO

To: Mike Riggle

Fr: Karen Geddeis

Re: Students and Staff Who Excel

Date: November 30, 2010

At the meeting on December 13, 2010, we will honor three athletes from our fall sports season:

- GBN senior Hanna Yu won third place in the singles tournament at the state tennis meet on October 23. After five rounds of victories in the semi-finals, she found herself in the final four where she claimed her highest finish in the state championship. Yu has committed to attending Yale University next fall.
- GBS sophomore Olivia Smoliga won the state swimming championship in the 50-yard freestyle and the 100-yard backstroke. Her time of 23.12 in the 50-yard freestyle is a new GBS school record. In the 100-yard backstroke, not only did Olivia set a GBS school record, but she also set a state record –twice. Olivia set the state record in a blazing 53.90 in preliminaries and then proceeded to break her own record again in Finals with a time of 53.43.
- GBS senior Ellen Chapman was recently named the best volleyball player in Illinois and the sixth best volleyball player in the nation by Prepvolleyball.com. This season, Ellen, an outside hitter, has led the Titan Varsity squad in point scoring with 182 kills, 61 digs, and 23 aces. Ellen has committed to play at the University of Wisconsin next year.

Given the major themes of the holiday season - sharing, giving and peace - we will also recognize the students at GBN who organized a huge fundraising effort to support one of our teachers who was recently diagnosed with cancer.

GBN students from Beating the Odds club, a group dedicated to cancer awareness, sold more than 1,500 bracelets in support of Spanish teacher Jonathan Sorkin who has been undergoing treatment for the disease. A portion of the proceeds benefit an organization called Support for People with Oral and Head and Neck Cancer (SPOHNC) with the remaining being used to offer Sorkin and his family a fun retreat from their recent challenges.

Students Bansry Shah, Alyssa Salzstein, and Ali Lapping will be representing the club and will be accompanied by assistant principal of student activities Dr. Mike Tarjan.