

Smart Money

Show Your Spirit!

Soon the holiday season will be upon us. You will get a break from school—get to sleep late, hang out with friends and even enjoy some time with your family. For some of you it means working a part-time job, athletic practices or even special homework projects.

At GKCU, we understand the many obligations that you have: with school, family and friends. And just because you don't have the day to day routine of school, doesn't mean you get to lay around and do nothing.

That is why we take our role very seriously in helping you budget your money so you have enough to save and spend accordingly. We want to make sure you are as successful in your finances as you are with the other areas of your life so that you can become all you want to be. We are here to help...no matter what you need us for. Whether it is understanding



credit, opening a checking account or how to apply for loans, GKCU wants to be the one you turn to when you have questions.

And now you, and your family and friends, can show their school spirit with a new GKCU series of debit and check designs. Beginning in December, GKCU will offer high school designs for checks and debit cards (Carvers Bay debit cards will be available at a later date). So whether you're just learning the basics with your checking account, or an old pro, you can show your support, and financial smarts with every check you write!

For more information on these special products, please contact any GKCU branch.

From all of us at GKCU, we hope you have a very safe, happy and relaxing holiday season!



Did you know that GKCU now has a branch at Georgetown High School?

You can now:
Open New Accounts
Make Deposits
Get Cash

And Get Help with:
Budgets
Balancing Checkbooks
Importance of Credit
Understanding Loans
Saving for Future & More!

For more information, stop by our new branch in the GHS Career Center.
Tuesdays & Fridays
11am-1pm

Coming soon to other high schools near you!

How Much does love cost?

The **Twelve Days of Christmas** are the festive days from the evening after Christmas Day through Epiphany on Jan. 6. December 26 is the first day of Christmas with January 6 as is the 12th day of Christmas. Christmas Day is therefore not one of the twelve days of Christmas.

"The Twelve Days of Christmas" is also the title of a popular English Christmas carol which spells out a series of grand gifts given on each day of the festival.

As a tongue-in-cheek economic indicator, each year economists will add up the cost for all the gifts mentioned in the song. It breaks

down to one expensive Christmas gift.

- One Partridge in a Pear Tree: \$104.99 (\$15.00 Partridge, \$89.99 Pear Tree)
- Two Turtle Doves: \$40.00 (\$20.00 each)
- Three French Hens: \$45.00 (\$15.00 each)
- Four Calling Birds: \$399.96 (\$99.99 each)
- Five Gold Rings: \$325.00 (\$65.00 each)
- Six Geese-a-Laying: \$300.00 (\$50.00 each)
- Seven Swans-a-Swimming: \$4,200.00 (\$600.00 each)
- Eight Maids-a-Milking: \$41.20 (\$5.15 each)
- Nine Ladies Dancing: \$4,576.14 (\$508.46 each)
- 10 Lords-a-Leaping: \$4,039.08 (\$403.91 each)
- 11 Pipers Piping: \$2,053.20 (\$186.66 each)
- 12 Drummers Drumming: \$2,224.30 (\$185.36 each)
- True cost of Christmas in song: \$72,608.02 (including 364 total gifts).

That is one present for every day of the year (except Christmas). Now that is true love...

Inside this issue:

School Spirit	1
Cost of Christmas Love	1
Quiz	2
Holiday Costs	2

Fimblefamble

Language is a crazy thing. Learning uncommon words can be rewarding and 'befuddling' others can be a whole lot of fun. See if you can guess what these words really mean.

1. GONGOOZLER: A) Someone who always drinks beverages quickly. B) Salesperson who sells faulty gongs. C) Someone who starts for hours at anything out of the ordinary. D) Bag for carrying musical equipment and/or lunch meat.
2. RANIVOROUS: A) Eating a frog. B) Act of sleeping with your mouth open. C) Sending a Valentine to someone you don't like. D) Riding a bike without holding on to the handlebars.
3. WINKLEHAWK: A) Small bird that tends to sing off key. B) Rectangular hole in a piece of cloth. C) Space between shelves in a bookcase. D) Really bad Bruce Willis movie.
4. HIEROMACHY: A) Sickness caused by reading romance novels. B) Clog in a vacuum cleaner bag. C) Apartment building guarded by leopards. D) Fight between priests and nuns.
5. DUDDYFUNK: A) Pie made of beef, lamb or deer meat. B) 1950s dance craze. C) Crust that forms in your eyes when you sleep. D) Inverted S-twist on kitchen sink drain pipe.
6. ZIBEB: A) A raisin. B) An artichoke. C) A melon. D) Last tissue in a box.
7. OMPHALOSKEPSIS: A) Strong desire to watch horror movies. B) Theory about mood swings of sea urchins. C) Ability to tie knots in rope using only your mind. D) Form of meditation where you stare at someone's belly button.
8. HIPPOPOTOMNOSTROSESQUIPEDALIAN: A) Someone with hippopotamus-like features. B) A very, very long word. C) Small cake made out of seaweed and chocolate. D) Common joke of telling into a banana as it were a telephone.

Answers: 1. C. 2. A. 3. B. 4. D. 5. A. 6. A. 7. D. 8. B.



Check out your account
on www.gkcu.org

1530 Bourne Street
Georgetown, SC 29440
546-8494
546-0029 (fax)
newing@gkcu.org



Holiday Are Expensive. How can I afford them?

With the holidays fast approaching, many people are wondering where they will get the money they need to get all the things they need. Presents, decorations, holiday vacations and even unexpected emergencies all become a part of our monthly spending in addition to the regular bills we're responsible for.

In today's world, there are many options available for families to make it through the holidays. The first is one you are already familiar with—saving. Whether it is a regular savings account, or a specific account like GKCU's Christmas Club account, people set aside money every paycheck or month to use at times when extra money is needed, like the holidays. This is the best way to get all you need for the holidays because it is your money, no borrowing required which means no interest to be paid back. However, this process also takes a lot of budgeting and even sacrifices during the year—passing up on other things so you know you have that money at the end of the year.

Another option is to get a holiday loan. This is a regular personal loan (which means the loan is based solely on the person's income because there is no collateral to base the loan on—ie. Car or home), however, the loan usually has some type of restrictions. For example, the holiday loans may have a maximum amount that is available to be borrowed (i.e. \$1200) and the terms of the loan to payback are usually under a year. Interest rates (the rate the bank/credit union

charges you to borrow the money) can range depending on your personal ability to pay (your credit score and credit history).

Skip A Payment programs are another way for consumers to have extra money at the holidays. This is when the financial institution allows the borrower to 'skip' their loan payments for a designated month for a small fee (like December) and they can use that money for holiday needs. This type of program is good because it does not require you to apply for a loan and incur more debt because it is money you've already been approved for. However, just because you 'skipped' the payment doesn't mean you don't have to pay it ever. With most skip programs, the payment is then added to the end of your loan which extends the payback terms of your loan by one more month.

Finally, credit cards are available for holiday purchases, especially for vacations and other larger purchase items that can be given as gifts such as computers, stereos, TVs, etc. A credit card is a loan so there is interest associated with purchases but most financial institutions will offer special rates for the holidays. Also, like a loan, monthly payments are due so remember to include those in your monthly budget until the balance is paid off and pay more than the required minimum so you pay less in interest and pay down the balance sooner.

These are just a few options to help the holidays less stressful. For other options or if you have questions about any of these products, feel free to call your local GKCU branch.