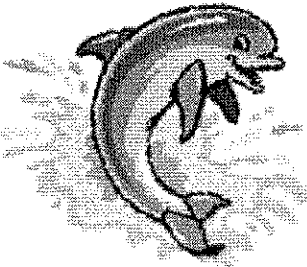


February, 2010



GARDEN CITY NEWS

3501 65th Ave. No., Brooklyn Center, MN 55429

Phone: 763-561-9768, fax: 763-549-2360

Dear Garden City Families,

February is my favorite month. There are more birthdays in this month throughout my family than in any other, so we take time to celebrate frequently. The weather is usually less frigid than in January. Every four years, February gets an extra day and still remains the shortest month. Groundhog Day, One Hundredth Day of School, Presidents' Day, and Valentine's Day are special days that make the month go quickly. But the best part of February is that it is I LOVE TO READ month.

I love to read, and I'll use just about any excuse with my family to sneak some time away to read. February lets me do that legitimately. In classrooms and libraries across the country, children and adults celebrate the joy of reading. Special guests are frequently asked to visit and share their favorite books with students. Some people dress up as favorite storybook characters to share their love of reading with others.

February is a month when you can make a concerted effort as a family to get books in your lives and talk together about what you are reading. As parents, you have an incredibly profound effect on your child's attitude toward reading. Children follow the models they see around them. If your child sees you reading, your child is likelier to become a lifetime reader. Many of you have instituted bedtime reading as part of your nightly routine, a calm, peaceful way to wind down together and end the day.

Sometimes as children become independent readers, parents give up this one-to-one reading time or stop reading to their children. Don't do this! Children continue to need to hear good models of oral reading from their parents. They need their vocabularies to be stretched, and they need to be able to talk about what you read together. Most importantly, they need the individual time with a parent to share a book together, laugh together, talk about characters, be close. Not only are you creating good readers, you are creating good reading habits and warm memories.

Talk with your child about your favorite books. What books did you read as a child? What books do you still love to read over and over? Encourage your child to talk about his or her favorites. Spend February loving to read. I will be loving to read, too!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd T. Tischer". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Todd T. Tischer
Principal

**NO SCHOOL
FRIDAY, FEB. 12
AND MONDAY,
FEB. 15**



GARDEN CITY CHARACTER CORNER

At Garden City, we recognize and celebrate the goodness we see in children each day!

As part of our Character Education program at Garden City, we recognize students for being "Students of Character." At school-wide character assemblies, we focus on positive character traits and behaviors that show RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, BELONGING, KINDNESS, WORK ETHIC, QUALITY, HONESTY, CONSISTENCY, EFFORT, and SELF-CONTROL.

Each day, when staff members see students showing these positive behaviors, they give the students a purple Character Star slip as recognition. The students take these slips to a special jar in the office where they are collected for the week. At our character assemblies each week, two students' slips are drawn from the jar. These students take the traveling Character Star trophies to their rooms for the week as special recognition. Their photos are taken and are mounted on the wall of "Garden City Character Stars."

The following students received the traveling Character Star trophies during January:

A-mal Zarzar (3-Leadbetter)
Harry Mason (4-Pearson)
Ulises Sosa Meza (5-Preiner)
John Moua (2-Sivertsen)

Kionta Mulbah (5-Huggett)
Amari Anders (1-Knutson)
Terrielle Cole Harris (2-Bursaw)
Mackemeh Kamara (5-Huggett)

Students at Garden City have accumulated **4912** Character Star slips since the beginning of school. Once the purple Character Star slips are punched with a star, the students bring them home to share with their families.

During the month of February, we are focusing the character trait of **QUALITY**.

QUALITY
is doing the best work
I can do.

Teachers are using student examples of quality work to show students what we expect and to encourage children to produce high quality work products. You can reinforce this work at home by asking your child to show you his/her examples of quality work and have him/her explain why it is quality work.

The following students are recognized for their outstanding character during December. Their tributes have been on display on the **Wall of Fame** throughout January.

We hope that during your next visit to Garden City you will take a few moments to wander down the hallway to read about our outstanding star students of character. We are proud of each student!



★ Kindergarten: **Madolley Kamara** (Ms. Jechorek) ★

★ **Alex Ayala-Cano** (Mrs. Thompson) ★

★ **Muhammed Dukuly** (Mrs. Williams) ★

★ First Grade: **Kristina Yang** (Ms. Engle) ★

★ **Jeovana Morales** (Mrs. Knutson) ★

★ Second Grade: **Melissa Martinez Nava** (Mrs. Bursaw) ★

★ **Khe Mee Yang** (Mrs. Sivertsen) ★

★ Third Grade: **Tyler Hang** (Mrs. Chamberlain) ★

★ **Kyoskie Le** (Ms. Leadbetter) ★

★ Fourth Grade: **Angelina Hang** (Mr. Pearson) ★

★ **Jada Barksdale** (Mr. Wieser) ★

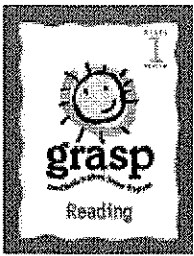
★ Fifth Grade: **Timmy Phommasouvanh** (Mrs. Huggett) ★

★ **Joey Vang** (Mrs. Preiner) ★

★ Sixth Grade: **Crystal Moua** (Mrs. Frame) ★

★ **Jennifer Her** (Mrs. Youngquist) ★





GRASP

Grand Rapids Academic Summer Program

Phone: 616-819-2548: Fax: 616-819-2545

The GRASP program is a 9-week correspondence summer program in math and reading for children who have completed kindergarten to 8th grade. The program seeks to help students retain skills learned during the school year by providing review exercises. Students should enroll at the grade just completed or the level that is appropriate for them. Lessons are scored, recorded, and returned. There is an award system. Awards are mailed soon after Labor Day.

FEES: \$37 one subject; \$61 both subjects

ENROLLMENT: Forms are available by calling 616-819-2548 or access Web site, www.grpublicschools.org/grasp. Sample pages and objectives may be viewed on this Web site. Parents must complete enrollment form for children and mail it with the enrollment fee to the address below.

Mail completed form with fee to the following:

GRASP Director

GRASP

2550 Burritt NW

Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Must be POSTMARKED by June 11, 2010

District 279 does not endorse the GRASP program

Information about District 279 summer programs may be found online at <http://district279.org/services/communityeducation>

FEBRUARY EVENTS

- 2 Groundhog Day
12:00-2:00 6th Gr to Feed My Starving Children
- 3 Picture Day
7:30-9:10 AM Conferences
4:30-8:10 PM Conferences
- 10 9:30-10:30 New Student Orientation
- 11 Bakken Assembly for Grades 1-6
9:30-10:15 BJH registers for 6th gr for Jr. High
- 12 No School-teachers' workshop
- 14 Valentine's Day
District 279 Foundation "A Night Out"
- 15 No School, Presidents' Day
- 19 9:45-10:30 1st Gr Running Start Breakfast
- 26 Spirit Day—Hat Day
- Mar. 2 Picture Retake Day



I love to read month.

NEW NEW NEW

Preschool Information Nights

Tuesday, February 9th at Willow Lane Early Childhood Center

Wednesday, February 10th at Arbor View Early Childhood Center

6:30-7:30 pm

Come hear about the variety of preschool options offered in the ISD 279-Osseo Area School District for three and four year olds.

You will have the opportunity to ask questions and tour the sites.

Parents Only Please! Questions?? 763-391-8777

OASIS 2009-10

Weaver Lake Elementary School-Media Center

15900 Weaver Lake Road, Maple Grove (763) 420-3337

Tuesdays 7:00 -9:00 p.m.

Meet at 6:30 p.m. prior to our meeting, for a time of support and sharing with other parents.

Share your concerns, or just listen. Get the support of others who have struggled and found solutions. This part of our meeting is facilitated by Sue Sullivan, experienced teacher and parent.

2/9/10- Building Attachment Behaviors with Traumatized Children: Practical Strategies For Home and School-Join us for an interactive evening to see us demonstrate safe ways to partner with kids to manage strong feelings, calm their bodies and try problem solving as triggers pass. We will share a number of adult to child or child group activities designed to create new neural pathways in our children, diminish fear responses and build capacity to be in safe relationships with others. Bring your creativity, your questions and despair, and your desire to feel alive again with our most challenging children **Krista Nelson LICSW, LMFT** is the Project Coordinator for the Wilder Foundation Center for Children with Reactive Attachment Disorder **Martha Johnson** is a mother of three and adoptive parent to a 9 year old boy with an early life history of significant neglect, loss and prenatal exposure to alcohol. She is also a middle school teacher

CHILDCARE: contact Weaver Lake Elementary 763-420-3337 prior to the meeting.



Volunteers Shape the Future!



We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give. ~ Winston Churchill

Book Fair is coming and **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

PTO will be hosting a Scholastic Book Fair on March 11th from 4:00 - 6:00pm and on March 12th from 4:00 - 7:30pm. They need help setting up on Wednesday, March 11th at 9:30am and again on Friday, March 13th to take the Book Fair down. If you are available to help during the sale or with set up and take down, please contact Julie Linder at 763-549-2365.

Carnival Donations Needed

PTO will be hosting a carnival on Friday, May 1st. We are in need of items that can be used as game prizes (candy, small trinkets, etc.) and larger items to raffle (cameras, bikes, restaurant certificates, etc). If you own or work for a company that could donate such items please contact Julie Linder at 763-549-2365.

Garden City welcomes volunteers even if you only have one hour to give. We have a variety of areas needing help. If you are available during the school day and would like to come in, please call Julie Linder at 763- 549-2365 or email at linderj@district279.org

GET INVOLVED TODAY!

Notes from Nurse Helen

The number of cases of influenza-like illness has decreased dramatically over the last few weeks. In order to help keep your children healthy, please remember to make sure they are getting 8-10 hours of sleep each night, eating a balanced diet with foods high in protein and vitamin C, drinking enough fluids, and practicing good handwashing. If your child has a fever greater than 100 degrees, is vomiting, or experiencing diarrhea, please keep them home until the symptoms have subsided for 24 hours without the use of medication.

Attention Parents of Sixth Grade Students!

Starting on September 1, 2010, for children enrolling in kindergarten and seventh grade, Minnesota schools can no longer accept a parent/guardian's signature as proof that a child has had the chickenpox. Instead a doctor will need to sign a form saying that the child does not need to get the varicella shot(s) because:

- * They are already immune because they had chickenpox disease that was either laboratory confirmed, medically diagnosed, or described well enough to the doctor by the parent/guardian to clearly indicate disease, or
- * They have a medical reason for not getting the shot(s), or
- * They have had a lab test showing they are already immune to chickenpox.

As with all immunizations required for school, children whose parents are conscientiously opposed to immunization may also receive an exemption.

The other immunization requirements for students entering 7th grade include the three dose series of Hepatitis B (HBV), a second dose of Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR), a second dose of the varicella (chickenpox) vaccine (unless the child has had chickenpox) and a Tetanus Diphtheria (Td) booster. Please send any information on immunizations to the Garden City Health Office as long as your child attends Garden City. Records will be transferred directly to the appropriate junior high in June. Please call us at 763-549-2363 if you have any questions.

Media Center News



Reading is Fundamental!

Garden City has three Reading is Fundamental (RIF) book distributions each year. The first distribution was Monday, January 25. Volunteers visited each classroom with a selection of books. Every Garden City student chose one book to put his/her name in and bring home. (Students get to keep the books--they do not have to return them to the school.) Students who were absent on January 25 chose a book when they returned to school.

We, along with the RIF program, encourage you to read with your child every day. Families play an essential role in teaching children to read and to enjoy reading! If you are interested in learning more about the RIF program and how to help your children become good readers, you can visit their website: www.rif.org. The website contains resources for parents and kids. It also includes resources in Spanish (Recursos en Español).

PE News

The first week of February we have a guest hip hop teacher, Miss Kenna Sarge, who will be working with all of the students. Miss Kenna will incorporate hip hop origins and history as well as teaching dance.

Another exciting world sport events is happening in February; the 21st Winter Olympics. The Olympics are being hosted by Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. They start on Feb. 12 and close on the 28. The Paralympics start on March 12 and run through the 21st. I hope you can take some time out of your day to watch an event or two with your family.



Music

Friendship songs for Valentine's Day.

Experiences reading and writing notes on the staff.

Brass, woodwinds, percussion and strings – we study instrument families.

Rhythms expand as we learn new notes.

Using voices and instruments to add harmony.

Art, poetry and music combine to increase our learning.

Recorder playing is still progressing in grade 4.

Yodeling helps develop your singing voice!



February Orchestra News

This trimester, students in both 5th and 6th grade have been or will be receiving new music for our district concerts in the spring. Students are also moving ahead in their books building new skills for playing.

The 5th grade orchestra had a wonderful district-wide concert on January 27th. The first concert is always so exciting, and it is wonderful to see how much these students have gained in less than a half a year. Next, the students will be working on longer pieces of music, harmonizing melodies, and other new skills. Students may have extra music and hand-outs to manage. Please watch for these and help your child to work on organizing materials so music does not get lost, and it all gets practiced! Our next concert is at the end of April. Students will be having one after school rehearsal for this concert. More information will be coming home in March.

The 6th grade Sinfonia students are starting to get their spring concert music, but should continue to keep their fall music handy for our spring tour which comes in May. The music for spring is challenging, and will give students much to practice. Don't let them forget to work in their lesson books so they can continue building the skills that help them play this new music!

Spring concerts are:

5 th grade	April 28, 6:30 p.m., Osseo Junior High
Sinfonia (6 th grade)	May 5, 7:00 p.m., Osseo Junior High
Sinfonia Tour	May 14

Ms. Gagnon
(763) 569-7600 x88969
gagnonm@district279.org
<http://www.279elemorch.blogspot.com/>

Recently, a number of children have been bringing electronic devices and cell phones to school. This is in violation of our school policy. Electronic games, music players, and cell phones are not permitted in school or on the bus. Please prevent your child from bringing these expensive items to school. They are a distraction to learning. If we see them, we will take them away from students and ask you to come to school to pick the items up.

Grade Level News



Subject Area	Kindergarten	First Grade	Second Grade	Third Grade
Language Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Building and writing sentences -Beginning, middle, and end sounds High-Frequency Words -Blending letters to make words -Various phonemic awareness skills 	<p>New Spelling words each Friday and test following Thursday</p> <p>Decodable books</p> <p>Long vowel sounds</p> <p>Ow,oa sounds</p> <p>-er, -est, - ed, -ing -s endings</p> <p>Running Start begins February 17th</p>	<p>We are working on Unit 3 in Trophies, Our World, understanding growth and change.</p>	<p>Trophies: finish and test Unit 3. Begin Unit 4, Tell Me A Story. Students meet storytellers from around the world.</p>
Math	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addition/subtraction stories -Patterns -Comparing numbers -Building teen numbers -Number Partners 	<p>Money: Dimes and Pennies</p> <p>Teen Solution Methods</p> <p>Read and use circle graphs to compare</p> <p>100th Day</p> <p>Practice simple addition and subtraction facts at home</p>	<p>Double digit addition and subtraction and story problems.</p>	<p>Finish and test Unit 7 Multiplication and Division 0-5s, 9s, 10s; Unit 6 Patterns; and begin Unit 8 Area and Perimeter</p>
Social Studies	<p>President's Day</p> <p>Valentine's Day</p>	<p>President's Day</p> <p>Citizenship</p> <p>Government and Leaders</p>	<p>Economics, President's Day, and the 100th. Day of School</p>	<p>America's Early Communities: Old and New Communities</p>
Science/ Health	<p>Fabric Unit</p> <p>Dental Health</p> <p>Food Groups</p>	<p>Finish Pebbles, Sand and Silt</p>	<p>Classification in Science and Dental Health Month</p>	<p>Health: healthy foods</p> <p>Science: Earth Materials</p>
Art		<p>Shape and space</p> <p>Types of lines</p>	<p>Animal Reports and illustrations.</p>	<p>Element of Art Shape: overlapping and depth</p>
Computer Literacy	<p>Kidspiration</p> <p>Starfall</p> <p>SmartNotebook</p>	<p>Interview a friend, insert Picture and write about it.</p> <p>Inserting and resizing graphics</p>	<p>MAP Test Practice</p>	<p>Use computer skills to complete an animal research project</p>

Grade Level News



Subject Area	Fourth Grade	Fifth Grade	Sixth Grade
Language Arts	<p><u>Trophies Theme 4: Creative Minds</u></p> <p>Students meet characters who overcome obstacles by thinking creatively</p>	<p>Reading 30 minutes each night.</p> <p>Literature Circles</p> <p>Research</p>	<p>Research</p> <p>Reading Logs</p> <p>150minutes/week – home reading</p>
Math	<p><u>Unit 5: Multi-digit multiplication</u></p>	<p>Adding & Subtracting Fractions</p>	<p>Adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing decimals.</p>
Social Studies	<p><u>The South Region:</u> students will continue to study the people, cultures, products and resources of the South Region of the United States</p>	<p>Northern, Southern, and Middle Colonies</p>	<p>Immigration and Westward Movement</p>
Science/ Health	<p><u>Science:</u> Chemistry</p> <p><u>Health:</u> Your Health and Fitness</p>	<p>Environments, self-concept & decision making</p>	<p>Nutrition, and models and designs</p>
Art	<p>Element of Art: Line</p>		<p>One and Two-Point Perspectives</p>
Computer Literacy	<p>Keyboarding and typing practice</p>	<p>As needed for Research</p>	<p>Word Processing and online research</p>