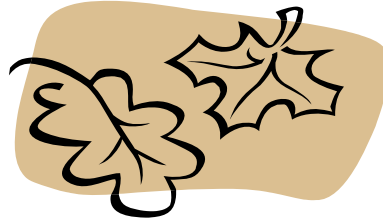


Garden City Community School

Learning to live!....living to learn!

NEWSLETTER



September 5, 2008

Greetings to our GCCS families!

We're off to a great start to our school year! The first two weeks have gone very smoothly with our high quality, energetic staff helping grades K – 8 get a positive start to their year! There are very few openings available and we have a waiting list! We will continue to take applications and accept new students when an opening is available, so pass the word for friends and neighbors to apply!

BUILDING COMMUNITY All GCCS classes spent the first couple weeks building “community” within their classes. We feel it is important to create a safe, fun, and respectful school before any learning can take place. Students need to feel this way about their school in order to start learning academically. The time was spent getting to know the school facility and staff, team-building, developing class policies, getting acquainted with peers, learning interests and strengths and becoming organized .



IMPORTANT DATES

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING is next Thursday, September 11, 2008 at 6:30PM in the GCCS Commons Area. Parents, staff, board and community members are invited to get the year started right! This group is designed as an advisory group to give their input to the GCCS Board regarding school issues and concerns. You will also learn how you can help the school with fund-raisers and volunteering. This year's president is Mercedes Rice, secretary is Marin Ramey, and treasurer is Mary Rong. Babysitting will be available.

NO SCHOOL for students on Friday, September 12. Our staff will be in training for the school's new health program. You'll receive more information about our plans soon. After months of parent input last spring, it was decided to use the Great Body Shoppe curriculum as it fits all the criteria you requested. The program is geared to each grade level's needs and is interactive and fun. It is being paid for through a Safe and Drug Free Schools grant.

PICTURE DAY Wednesday, September 17 will be picture day for students. We need some parents to help with this, so please let me or Kirsten Finnigan know if you can help 9AM – 1PM.

YARD SALE FUNDRAISER Saturday, September 27, time to be determined. Contact chairman, Teresa Worth (412-7044), if you can help with this or have items to donate. The Community Council plans to use the money to get the safety soft surface required for a section of the playground in order to install some play equipment for the students. Pass the word to help make this a financial success!

STAFF E-MAILS All staff now has their own school e-mail to make it easier for you to contact them. Everyone's e-mails use their first and last names as follows: cindy.hoovel@gardencityschool.org. If you do not have a response within 24 hours during the school week, please call the office to leave a message since technology does not always cooperate!

VOLUNTEERING Teachers have sent home volunteer wish lists to their students' families to give you many opportunities to help with your students' class activities. Next week you will also receive an "All-School Volunteer Form" from Volunteer Coordinator, Kristen Finnigan (585-4131). This year we are asking every family to volunteer at least FIVE (5) hours a month with something that will work within your interests and schedules. Whether it is volunteering to help in class, improve the playground, paint, repair, prepare project supplies at night, money, sharing of talents/hobbies/careers or donating money.....everything is helpful and important to the success of your child and the school. We need EVERYONE to volunteer in some way. Please return these forms so we can help you become involved with your child's education!

AGENDAS All students grades 1- 8 received colorful school agendas this year. Research shows keeping these planners updated helps students keep organized and are a great way for parents and teachers to communicate. We ask you to check and sign these daily. They should tell you what the child is studying in class and what is due. Parents and teachers may write notes to each other also. These are used as passes when students need to leave the class room. Please encourage your child to take care of these and bring them home to you. All students are required to use these and will be charged \$5 to replace them.

HANDBOOKS The back pages of the bright green school handbook must be signed by both student and parent/guardian and *returned for their school file no later than next Thursday, September 11*. The school board wants to be sure all families are informed about certain school policies. All schools are required to have many more policies than what you find in the handbook, but these are the ones used daily. You are always welcome to contact me if you want to see other GCCS policies.

NEW STAFF We welcome our new staff to the school! See the STAFF link on this website for more information about these great additions to GCCS!

- Elizabeth Sackman- certified elementary teacher for kindergarten
- Marti Hinckley- certified elementary teacher for 1st-2nd combination class teacher,
- Brenda Miller - certified K-8 teacher for 7-8 grade combination teacher,
- Susan Mills - a certified elementary teacher hired part-time to work with special needs students
- Shannel Stinner - a certified elementary teacher hired part-time to work with special needs students
- Cyndi Groth-Landis - counselor (GCCS hours are 11AM - 3PM daily)
- Pat Griffin - paraprofessional to help with playground, special needs students and public relations
- Jenn Broncheau - part-time PE teacher

FEES To help cover a bit of the special program costs this year, we are asking \$15 per student fee. Please be sure you have turned this in to the school bookkeeper, Michele Roth. All-day kindergarten student costs are \$250 per month to cover the additional afternoon program and are due by the first of each month. Please remember to keep your child's lunch account current by sending money to be entered into the computer scanner program.

COUNSELING PROGRAM We are very fortunate to now have Cyndi Groth-Landis ("Counselor Cyndi") as a counselor in our school. Be sure to read the attached letter from her to understand her counseling department plans for GCCS in addition to completing a survey to help her develop the program with your input.

I look forward to seeing all of you at this Thursday's Community Council meeting. As always, be sure to contact me if you have any questions or concerns as parent and community input is very important at Garden City Community School!

Cindy Hoovel, Director of Garden City Community School

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