

GARDEN CITY FAMILY NEWSLETTER

December 12, 2008



Family Night at GCCS!

Come have a snack and make some holiday crafts at the school with your children!

When? *Thursday, December 18, 2008.....5:00-7:00PM*

Who? *The whole family is invited!*

Cost? *Free!*

Sponsored by the GCCS Community Council and family involvement grants.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

If you are interested in helping plan a craft or bringing snacks,
please let Megan know at 761-9549 or 377-0011 or megan.jones@gardencityschool.org.

Garden City Alive!

A performance by the students of Garden City Community School

January 15, 2008 at 7PM

(Location to be confirmed soon!)

The students of GCCS have been working with Artist-in-Residence, Anna Marie Boles, through a grant from Idaho Commission on the Arts and the National Endowment of the Arts. Ms. Boles has been working with the teaching staff and collaborating with GCCS Arts and Community Integration Coordinator, Rebecca Weeks DeMeritt, to help GCCS launch a theater program at the school. This is their first all-school theatrical presentation!

The performance is based on the history of Garden City, the beautiful river landscape that we cherish in the Treasure Valley, its flora and fauna, and the potential future of our community in Garden City. Come see all our students tell this story as you have never seen it before! Students have worked together doing research, writing scripts, blocking scenes, studying Idaho history, and making costumes and props to bring the community alive!

Join us at the end for a forum on the vision of Garden City and our great school. Be sure to mark this on your family calendar and spread the word to neighbors, friends, and family members as you will not want to miss this truly unique performance!

NOTE TO PARENTS: Every student has a very important part in this performance, so please get them to school every day and save THURSDAY, JANUARY 15 on your calendar! Every child is needed to make this work!

WEBSITE Be sure to check out the changes on the GCCS website! Thanks to parent volunteer, Candy Wildt, for all her incredible work and talents to help make the improvements! We are keeping this very updated now, so be sure to look at it regularly to keep up with what's happening with the school! (NOTE: This is a great tool if your child forgets to give you the all-school Family Newsletters we send home every other Friday!)

CHOIR Thanks to teachers Marti and Marin and parent volunteers Barb Hamon and Beth Bannister for creating our incredibly sounding 1st-8th grade Holiday Choir! They represented us well at the recent Garden City Tree Lighting Ceremony and will be singing at area nursing homes before break.

PARENTING CLASSES Parenting Class will be held at the school 6:00-8:00PM Wednesday Nights January 21-March 11, 2009. Learn practical parenting ideas from a local expert, Dr. Jan Thomas, Ed.D., LCPC, who has led parenting groups for over 25 years. Sliding fees. Scholarships available. Babysitting available. Call the office at 377-0011 to reserve your space!

CHESS We have received a grant for supplies and training for a Chess Club. We also want to start using this in math classes for first and second graders. Please contact Director Cindy if you are interested in helping with the club and/or the math integration.

SNOWDAYS If it snows this winter, we will only close the school if the Boise School District calls a “Snow Day”, so listen to the radio or TV.

ATTENDANCE & TARDIES Please check the school handbook for the policies on this. It’s very important to have your children in school – and on time – for both academic and financial reasons. If missing more than 10% or having more than five tardies, students and their families are required to have Saturday School or meet with the GCCS Board of Director. Please help your children with the importance of timeliness and getting a good education!

WINTER BREAK This starts with early release on Friday, December 18, 2008 and no school until Monday, January 5, 2009. Enjoy!

Be sure to take part in the exciting family events offered in this newsletter - “Family Night” (12/18/08) and “Garden City Alive!” (1/15/09). I wish for you to have a wonderful holiday season!

Cindy Hoovel, Director

Garden City Community School

(208) 377-0011 cindy.hoovel@gardencityschool.org

From Our Counselor, Cyndi Groth-Landis

Book Club

We have started reading Uglies by Scott Westerfeld with the seventh and eighth grade girls. The heroine of the story is Tally and she is about to turn sixteen. Tally is extremely excited about her upcoming 16th birthday. Tally isn’t excited because she will be getting her driver license, but about beings changed into a “pretty”. We will be discussing what it must be like for Tally to want to be a “pretty”, Tally’s feelings about “pretty” town, her relationship with her “ugly” friends, and her change of heart when Tally decides that she does not want to go through with the operation to be a “pretty”.

The book club will be on-going throughout the rest of the school year. We hold book club during DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) time once a week.

Friendship Group

We have formed a new group! Several girls are meeting every other week for our Friendship group. We will be discussing what it means to be a friend, how to make and keep friends, how to be a leader in peer groups, and how to handle peer pressure. Our first meeting was a big hit. We learned that we have many things in common with each other.

Community Service Project

The fifth through eighth grades are working on several community service projects. In October all of these students attended a Kindness Campaign workshop. During the two days, the students came up with their ideas for the community service projects. Their ideas include; raising funds for an animal shelter, yard clean up for the elderly, environment clean up for the school and surrounding buildings, and a concert to raise money for our great school. The concert is tentatively planned for the spring.

We are still in the planning stages for our projects, but all of the students are working really hard getting all of the details worked out. Teachers Ben, Brenda, Rebecca are helping them learn the processes for community service projects and will be sending out more information as the projects get closer to completion. If you are interested in assisting in any of these worthy community projects, please give us a call.

If you have any questions about any of these clubs or projects, please give me a call at 377-0011 or e-mail at cyndi.groth-landis@gardencityschool.org