

GARDEN CITY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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

NEWSLETTER: February 20, 2009

2009-2010 COMMITMENT FORMS *due by Thursday, March 5 at 3:30PM!* These are being sent home with this newsletter today on bright yellow paper. In order to have your current students' places reserved for next year, this form must be in the office by deadline. The number of spaces available to new students through our March 18 lottery is determined by the returned commitment forms. If current families do not commit by this deadline – and change their minds later, they will end up on the waiting list! (By the way – siblings of current students are placed higher in the lottery.)

LOTTERY – *all applications for any 2009-2010 new students will be due Friday, March 13 at 3:30PM.* The lottery will be held Wednesday, March 18 at 6PM. Please pass the word to your friends!

UPCOMING EVENTS



ANNUAL SCHOOL AUCTION

is coming soon! Be sure to get your tickets for the Mardi Gras event – and invite others to come – for the **Saturday, March 7 event!** The auction committee needs your help: 1) donate gift certificates and other items to the auction, 2) add goodies to your child's class theme basket they are creating for the auction, and 3) offer your help for the actual action! Contact Teresa Worth (412-7044) or Laurel Odell (859-8271) for more information! Students are currently making a variety of masks which will be for sale during the event! **STUDENT MASKS** The students have made masks with Linda and BSU art education students the last couple weeks to sell as part of the decorations and fundraising for the auction. These masks will be on sale for \$10. *If parents want to buy their own student's mask, please complete the form at the end of this newsletter and send it with \$10 to our bookkeeper, Michele by Wednesday, March 4, so the mask will be marked sold before it goes on display to be sold at the Saturday, March 7 auction!*

DANCING THROUGH SCHOOLS This great program will include shadow dancing this year and follow the work of the hilarious children's author, Shel Silverstein. Our students will have 45 minutes of dance each day Feb. 23 – March 9. The grand finale all-school performance will be **MONDAY, March 9 from 6PM – 7PM at the Boys & Girls Club!** All students are required to attend. You won't want to miss the fun and pride of the children which results from this wonderful evening!

OPEN HOUSE for the PUBLIC Invite your friends to visit GCCS's next Open House, **Thursday, March 5 from 4-7PM!** This is the last official Open House before the March 18 lottery!

GREEN ART SHOW Linda announced the 5-8 grade GCCS students who won awards at the Treasure Valley "GO Green!" Kids Recycling Art Contest during this week's Community Circle: Full Class Division: *Ben's Class, 4th place, 8th-9th Grade Division: *Jasmine Gray and Lacey Kielley ("Recycling Robot") and *Katie Fluke, Cristina Hays, Natalie Millett and Gretchen Finnigan ("Sponge Bob") tied for first! *Solveig Gustafson ("Stairs to a Healthy Environment" and *Cae Odell, Jessie Thiele, James Allan, Julia Rojas and Ethan Hyder("World Castles") tied for second. *Way to go!* There will be a reception for artists at the new Garden City's "Art & Soul Gallery" located in the new Riverfront District. (Chinden to 36th, north to Adams, left to Thurman Mills, right to #480) Monday, Feb 23 from 6-8PM. The show will be on display through March 6. Contact arts integration coordinator, Linda, with questions.

HELPING the ANIMAL SHELTER As part of their Service Learning project resulting from the 5th-8th grade Kindness Campaign in the fall, a group of our older students is raising money to help the local animal shelter. They will be having a **BAKED FOOD SALE** for the students to purchase goodies after their lunch each Thursday in March. The items will cost 25-75 cents, so send those quarters with the students to support their good cause!



GIFTS of the HEART

Flyers were sent to all GCCS families last week about the "Gifts of the Heart" donation program the board's fund raising committee just started. Ask for another flyer or check out the school website to start contributing to this easy monthly donation program. All contributions are appreciated and are needed to keep GCCS unique!

ATTENDANCE Our attendance has greatly improved in 2009! Please continue to get your children here by 8:40AM so they don't miss anything from their class. Making sure they are here every day makes all the difference in the child's learning and is extremely important to our school finances! Please plan your trips around the long weekends in our schedule!

2009-2010 BUDGET The Community Council discussed the 2009-2010 budget during their last meeting. They were asked to brainstorm ideas for possible cuts to help meet lowered money expectations that all schools must face next year. Ideas included raising class sizes (state funding comes from students' attendance) and going to a four day school week (which would cut back employee, busing, lunch and maintenance costs). GCCS's charter states it can not go over 205 students total and tries to keep class sizes down. Attendees were open to raising class sizes as long as the school community stayed small, but there was much discussion regarding the shortened week idea. GCCS's director and board's finance committee is just gathering ideas to help create the next budget. Feel free to tell Director Cindy or your board reps your ideas and opinions.

RECRUITING NEW STUDENTS – *your help is needed!*

- The most effective way to get new students interested in GCCS is through “word of mouth”! YOU are the ones who “tell it like it is” to your friends and neighbors and they believe what you say! Please pass the good word about our school!
- We will be distributing our beautiful new “Why GCCS?” postcards the next two weeks to several neighborhoods. Please contact Director Cindy if you'd be able to help.

WEBSITE – almost all information you need to keep up with GCCS activities is kept very updated on our website now. Please be sure to check it regularly. Thanks, Candy Wildt for your help!

KINDERGARTEN 2009-2010 We have a great new brochure explaining our kindergarten program which we have been taking to area pre-schools. If you would like brochures to take to future kindergarten students, please get some from Traci. Tell people about our next Open House, March 5, to learn more about the kinders!

STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT Our staff has been putting in many extra hours to continuously improve GCCS. Their February 13 workshops were geared to aligning our math curriculum so our methods and standards show continuity grades K-8 to best help our students learn. The group also participated in workshops in “Classroom Management using Adlerian Psychology and Positive Discipline”, team building and discussion for the 2009-2010 budget and recruitment process. The next professional development day will be March 6 with teachers continuing on the math curriculum and developing plans for all-school student portfolios.

I welcome you to volunteer in classrooms and throughout the school! Contact us at any time! Enjoy the events coming up the next few weeks!

Sincerely,

Cindy Hoovel, Director
(208) 377-0011
cindy.hoovel@gardencityschool.org

----- -cut here & send \$10 with this form to buy your child's mask! -----

AUCTION MASKS

____YES! I want to buy my child's MASK that will be on display for sale at the GCCS Auction Saturday, March 7, 2009. I am returning this form - along with \$10 per mask - to the GCCS bookkeeper no later than Wednesday, March 4, 2009. This will keep it from being sold to anyone else during the auction art show and sale! (You may pick up the pre-purchased mask at the end of the auction or the following week at the school.)

STUDENT(s) FULL NAME(s) and Teacher:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____