



# FAMILY NEWSLETTER



## Garden City Community School

October 2009

### **FAMILY POT LUCK** sponsored by Community Council : Thursday, October 22 6-7:30PM

Join the fun at this annual event held in the GCCS Commons Area & Lunch Room! Bring a food dish big enough to feed your family members. We'll place it with everyone's favorites and enjoy the "luck" of all the interesting things to eat! This is a great informal way to get to know what's going on with Community Council and to meet other parents, students, and siblings of the school. Drinks and eating utensils will be provided.

**FALL FESTIVAL** Friday, October 30 (2-3PM) will be the school's Fall Festival. Each class will celebrate in a way which best fits their ages, so watch for information from your child's teacher. Costumes may be worn as they match perfectly with our theater arts integration. However, the costumes need to represent one of the school's "5 R's"- **Respect, Responsibility, Resourcefulness, Responsiveness and Resiliency.** Examples include: 1) Spider Man is "responsive" to the needs of people in danger, 2) Sponge Bob shows "respect" to his friends by listening to their problems, or 3) the 3 Little Pigs were "resourceful" building their house from straw or bricks. Almost any costume can fit a 5R and it creates an interesting conversation for you to have with your student as you make plans for the outfit!

**Family Fun MATH NIGHT** Thursday, November 19.....Save the date! Community Council and GCCS staff are sponsoring this great event through a grant and supplies received recently. Learn how to help your child with math through having "fun" with math games!!! If you would like to help with this event, please contact Parent Rep Michael Tetrault at [mtetrault@cablone.net](mailto:mtetrault@cablone.net). You'll rotate through different activities together as you both learn how fun math can be! Achievement Reports will also be distributed this evening.

**SCHOOL PHOTOS RE-TAKES** Wednesday, Nov.4 If you ordered picture packets, they'll be arriving soon. If your child was absent for picture day or you'd like to have retakes, remember re-take day!

**FUND RAISERS** Sara Covington, one of your parent representatives to the GCCS School Board, is organizing some great fund raisers for the school. She'll be contacting those of you who signed up to volunteer in this area. During the month of October, classes are having a Penny Drive using huge water jugs in their rooms to collect as much "change" as possible. Ask them to explain it to you. The goal is to raise at least \$500 to help with field trips and guest presenters. Tell your friends about this and clear out those purses, pockets and change buckets to help your children join in the fun! See the GCCS website for more fund raising ideas\* coming up soon!



**AUCTION\*** The date for our annual AUCTION has been set for Friday, March 19. Sara Covington, chairman, will be contacting volunteer committee members. Her e-mail is [sara\\_covington@hotmail.com](mailto:sara_covington@hotmail.com).

**PARENT REPRESENTATIVES** Your parent representatives to the GCCS Board are Michael Tetrault and Sara Covington. Feel free to contact them. Learn more about them by checking out the GCCS website "Board" link.

**VOLUNTEERING** Remember that each family is asked to volunteer at least five hours each month in their child's classroom or with an all-school aspect. It's a great way to help the school and become more involved in your child's education. If you haven't completed an All-School Volunteer form, they are available in the office. You will be contacted as soon as the volunteer area you signed up for needs help! We can always use office greeters and sub, so please contact Director Cindy, if interested!

**FAMILY GOAL NIGHT** Thanks to parents who joined their children at this new event recently! It was a great way for you to learn more about what's happening in their academic lives each day. We want you to be as involved as possible with your child as YOU are the most important influence in their lives. The students

have been excited to work towards the academic and personal goals their families helped them determine. Be sure to do your “homework” and write that letter to your child so it can become a very special part of their portfolios. Check with your teacher if missed this night as you’ll want to be sure to catch up! The GCCS’s first tri-mester ends November 13.



## **The ARTs STUDIO**

*This is developing into an exciting exploration of the arts!*

**Drawing:** Director Cindy enjoyed working with students in grades 1-8 developing their basic drawing skills. There are impressive visual artists in this school and we hope to help them continue developing their talents! An art show of their work will be displayed during the Family Pot Luck October 22.

**Yoga:** Thanks to parent, Jean Doyle, for teaching the students yoga during their Art Studio time recently. She enjoyed the variety of ages and it was a great introduction for students to this calming method of physical and mental activity. Jean will be spending weekly time with the 5-8 grade students in the near future.

**Photography:** Barb Hamon and Mary Rong have organized two weeks with professional photographers for October 12-23’s studio time. Thanks to photographers Melanie Folwell, Mindy Scott and David Mor. Students will also be introduced to year book production and have the opportunity to become more involved in developing a school year book if interested later.

**Ceramics:** Art consultant, Linda Bu will be visiting us soon to help students make two ceramic tiles. One will be a “take home” and the other will be used to develop a group art project to help support our partners, TrICA.

**Student Teacher** – We are fortunate to be having Monica - an Art and Spanish education student teacher join GCCS November 2 – December 18. Director Cindy will be her mentor teacher as Monica teaches visual arts during the Arts Studio time and collaborates with classroom teachers as they integrate visual arts into their basic curriculum.

**GUEST ARTISTS** – *If you or someone you know would be interested to share their talents in the area of music, theater, visual arts or dance, please contact us!*



## **HEALTHY SCHOOL PROGRAM**

\*\*\*Please help your children pack healthy snacks and lunches to help us improve everyone’s physical and mental health! The food and exercise they get are considered “brain food” and help them learn better and feel better about themselves in general. \*\*\*Staff continues to wear pedometers and set good eating examples for the students. \*\*\*Elizabeth has students getting plenty of exercise during PE while teachers are combining more movement, dance, and music to teach various subjects. \*\*\*Stuart Barber (the circus skills instructor from England) will be visiting us soon to teach some new interactive math games to improve basic math skills through movement. \*\*\*Counselor Cyndi is working with students to use Choice Wheels as they determine better ways to handle conflicts. \*\*\*Students were introduced to yoga last week.\*\*\*Be sure to enjoy outside activities with your children as it’s a fun and healthy time for families to build positive memories as they build healthy bodies!

## **RESILIENCY – Our New “R”: “Fall seven times, stand up eight!”** by Counselor Cyndi Groth-Landis

*“Resiliency is the human capacity to bounce back from bad experiences, or thrive in spite of hard times and difficulties”.* Resiliency is something that everybody has, although some people may show it more clearly than others. Being resilient is our new “R” that we are including in our lessons this year at GCCS. I will be working with the teachers on a variety of lessons to help the students understand what and how to become resilient. In our ever changing world, children need to understand that they may not be responsible with many of the different things that impact lives such as their parents divorce, a death in the family, a parent losing their job, or a friend moving away... but they are responsible for dealing with them. This is what we will be focusing and working on throughout the school year.

As always, feel free to contact your child’s teacher or myself me with any questions or concerns! We’re very glad you are part of our GCCS family!

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