



# The Eagle Express

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Golden Empire Elementary School • Sacramento City Unified School District  
9045 Canberra Drive, Sacramento, CA 95826 • (916) 395-4580 • goldenempire.scusd.edu

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## Principal's Corner

Welcome to February! It is difficult to believe, but our school year is half over! The semester point is past, and we are on our way to spring. We are completing our second i-Ready diagnostic assessment period so we can see the growth of our students and use this data to make any adjustments needed to ensure our students are getting the best education possible. Our Spring Parent, Student, Teacher conferences will be March 15--22. You will be contacted by your child's teacher to set up a conference. These conferences are extremely important and we know everyone will make an effort to attend. As our Golden Empire students continue to progress we are excited and happy to share the news with you at conference time. However, please do not think that you need to wait until parent/teacher conferences to contact your child's teacher. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to us!

The Golden Empire Faculty and Staff are committed to academic excellence for all students. We will do whatever it takes to help each child reach academic success! As our partner, we need your assistance to achieve this goal. Do you read to your child each night? No matter the age, all children benefit from hearing fluent readers. This exposes your child to quality literature that he/she may not be able to read and provides a special bonding time for you and your child. Just 15 minutes a night can make a world of difference!

You can also help by having your child arrive on time each day. There is a very high correlation between good attendance and good grades. Being punctual is an important life skill that kids can learn at an early age. This helps students begin their day on a positive note. We also need your help in reducing classroom interruptions. If you need to visit with the teacher, please do so before school, after school, or during the teacher's planning time. If your child forgets something, please leave it at the office, and we can have them pick it up at a convenient time. Please do not pick up your child early unless you cannot make other arrangements. Our students' learning time is precious, and as adults we need to show them that we respect what they are doing each day. Finally, if your child needs extra assistance, alert your child's teacher. We can assist with tutoring and/or intervention options.

It's time for Kindergarten registration! Registration began on January 15. If you have Kindergarten students or know anyone in our attendance area with Kindergarteners, make sure they enroll at the District's Enrollment Center, located at the Serna Center. Stop by the school office for more information. Register NOW to secure your child's place; our teachers and programs are in high demand!

Mark your February calendar for one of Golden Empire's favorite community events: The Pancake Breakfast, Silent Auction and Raffle. This fun and delicious event will happen on Saturday, February 23 from 8:00am—11:00am, in Golden Empire's cafeteria. This is always one of our best attended events, and no wonder why: the delicious food, awesome auction and raffle items (including Disneyland!), fun activities, and interacting with the Golden Empire community makes this a fabulous event!

Here's to a fabulous February!

~ Dr. Irene Eister, Principal

## Take Our School Survey



We want to hear from you!

Please take the SCUSD School Climate survey to inform how our district and our schools are meeting the needs of our families and students. The deadline to

complete this school climate survey is February 21, 2019.

The district surveys families every year for their opinion on issues such as safety and feelings of connectedness to school. We hope you will share your opinion every year, and complete one survey for every school that your students attend. The survey should take no more than 10 minutes to complete. Links to the family survey, in 6 different languages, can be found below.

California Education Code requires every Local Educational Agency in the state to administer a school climate survey to the students, teachers, and families it serves and use the results to inform decision making in the LCAP and guide how LCFF funds are utilized.

Links to Online Family Surveys are as follows:

- ENGLISH: <http://tinyurl.com/SCUSDfamily>
- CHINESE: <http://tinyurl.com/SCUSDchinese>
- HMONG: <http://tinyurl.com/SCUSDhmong>
- RUSSIAN: <http://tinyurl.com/SCUSDussian>
- SPANISH: <http://tinyurl.com/SCUSDspanish>
- VIETNAMESE: <http://tinyurl.com/SCUSDvietnamese>

## What is Academic Talent Search?

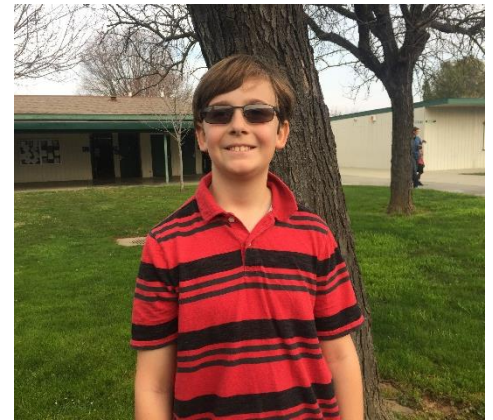
Academic Talent Search (ATS) is a non-profit organization sponsored by CSU, Sacramento (Sacramento State). ATS provides educational experiences that are mentally stimulating, fast-paced, fun & geared for 4<sup>th</sup>–9<sup>th</sup> grade students. Over 2,400 students attend ATS each

summer. Students accelerate their learning in traditional subjects like math & explore new topics not available in regular school. ATS teaching staff includes University faculty, community college professors, public/private school instructors & industry professionals. Students take a qualifying test to determine appropriate placement in the summer courses—held at Golden Empire on February 22. Financial aid is available. Visit [www.csus.edu/coe/ats/](http://www.csus.edu/coe/ats/) for more information.



## How Do You Spell S-u-c-c-e-s-s?

*6<sup>th</sup> Grader Nathan Ferguson  
Again Represents GE at the  
Central Valley Spelling Bee*



Golden Empire's 2018 Spelling Bee, held on December 10, was a great success. Many thanks to Mr. Bergeron and Mrs. Conklin for coordinating an excellent Bee! Our 2018-2019 Spelling Bee Champion is 6<sup>th</sup> grader, Nathan Ferguson! And it's a repeat for Nathan—Nathan was our 2016-17 winner as well!

Nathan advanced to the next spelling bee competition. On January 28, Nathan completed an online spelling and vocabulary test, sponsored by the Sacramento Bee, and administered to only the top spellers in Sacramento County. Of those students, only 50 of the best spellers will then be invited to the oral spelling bee in March at the Scottish Rite Center. We will keep our fingers crossed for Nathan and wish him the best in representing the Golden Eagles! Congratulations on your achievement, Nathan!

# Take Your Parent to LUNCH DAY

Families, don't forget about Take Your Parent to Lunch Day! We invite our Golden Empire parents to come to lunch with their children on the first Friday of each month. Parents are encouraged to have lunch with their child by either bringing a healthy lunch from home or purchasing one from our cafeteria (\$4.00)! Bring a blanket and/or chairs to sit in the quad area and enjoy lunch with their child. If it is raining, however, the event will be cancelled.

You are welcome to bring younger children who are not enrolled at Golden Empire to have lunch, but parents and younger siblings cannot attend the lunchtime recess due to liability reasons. Also, due to liability, only your children may have lunch with you—your child's friends are not permitted to join you unless supervised by his/her own guardian.

Our next Parent Lunchtime will be Friday, February 1. Parents, please remember to sign-in near the black gate first. We look forward to seeing you there!

Lunch times are as follows:

- 5th & 6th Grades: 11:30am-12:10pm
- 4th Grade: 11:45am-12:25pm
- 1st Grade: 11:55am-12:45pm
- Kindergarten: after 12:00pm dismissal
- 2nd & 3rd Grades: 12:05pm-12:55pm

**Send me to school if...**

- I have a runny nose or just a cough, but no other symptoms.
- I haven't taken any fever-reducing medicine for 24 hours, and I haven't had a fever during that time.
- I haven't thrown up or had any diarrhea for 24 hours.

**Keep me at home if...**

- I have a temperature higher than 100 degrees even after taking medicine.
- I'm throwing up or have diarrhea.
- My eyes are pink and crusty.

*If you keep me home, remember to call my school immediately to report my absence!*

**Call the doctor if...**

- I have a temperature higher than 100 degrees for more than two days.
- I've been throwing up or have diarrhea for more than two days.
- I've had sniffles for more than a week, and they aren't getting better.
- I still have asthma symptoms after using my asthma medicine (call 911 if I'm having trouble breathing after using an inhaler).

*Be sure to get a note from the doctor and bring it to my school!*

When children are sick, they need to stay home. If your child has any of the following symptoms, please do not send him/her to school:

- Fever of 100 degrees or more: Children should stay home until the fever has been gone for 24 hours without fever reducing medication.
- Vomiting or severe diarrhea: Children should stay home until symptoms have been gone for 24 hours.
- Severe cold: A little snuffle is not a reason to stay home, but a severe cold or influenza is.
- Severe sore throat, ear ache, head ache, or persistent cough: If your child has a communicable disease, he/she should not come to school. Common childhood communicable diseases include chicken pox, measles, mumps and whooping cough (pertussis). Please call the school and let them know if your child should contract any of these diseases.

## Pancake Breakfast & Silent Auction

Saturday, February 23, 2019 from 8:00-11:00am  
Breakfast, silent auction, and raffle prizes!



*Is there a more delicious way to raise money for the school than a Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser? We don't think so!*

Breakfast Tickets

\$4 pre-sale / \$6 at the door

Raffle Tickets

2 for \$1 and 15 for \$5

Tickets will be available through classroom orders and after school February 19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>th</sup>

**A Delicious Fundraiser hosted by the Golden Empire PTO**



## Welcome Golden Empire's Basketball Team!

Golden Empire is a proud member of the Sacramento City Unified School District's Elementary Sports Basketball League, joining the Wolverines Division. Golden Empire's team will play 8 games in our division, then hope to make it to the Division Play Offs, as did our Football Team! After intense try-outs, 16 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students were selected from more than 55 students to represent Golden Empire. Congratulations to the following team members:



Eric Aflaki	Jaden Battle	Lance Consolver
Jalaya Cozart	Terrance Elbert	Dasani Fitzgerald
Timeya Franklin	Takiyah Haygood	Isreal Johnson
Daniel Kamara	Tullea McDonald	Sha'Kur Osborne
Rolland Phamuong	Korshawn Thomas	Blake Young

Mr. Carl Gayle, our Team's Coach, is an experienced basketball coach and former professional basketball player. Coach Carl has the team practicing, ready to take on the other elementary schools.

All are welcome to come out to watch and support the Golden Empire Team. All games are played at Einstein Middle School's gym on Wednesdays. The schedule is as follows. Go Golden Eagles!



## Mr. Lovrin's Library News: *Are YOU Playing Library Bingo?*

Just as there are many types of students at our school, we have many different types of books in our library. We try to make sure that every student has a chance to read the books that are of interest to them. We also strive to ensure that we have books with information for any report the students may need to work on. Having a wide collection of books to help our students have the tools necessary to become successful readers and leaders is essential.

In January we started Library Book Bingo for our 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. The goal of this program is to get the students to read books from genres they may not normally read. In order to complete a bingo at least 6 books of different genres, which line up on the bingo card, must be read and summarized. Students can earn individual prizes for a bingo, and another for a blackout. There will also be a school wide prize if enough students complete a bingo. Please continue to encourage your students reading both inside and outside of the school reading materials.

To get the younger classes interested in reading new genres, I am displaying more than just "everybody books" on the bookshelves. Sometimes students overlook non-fiction and chapter books because they are not as easily seen as some of the everybody books. Displaying books that can help a student pursue their dreams is of great importance to me. Helping students achieve their own personal successes is my goal.

Nothing can take you farther than a book and your imagination. READ!



# 25 Questions That Get Kids Talking About School

by Arianne Brill



Does this ever happen to you when your child comes home from school? You are just so curious about his/her day and you have lots of questions to ask, so you get started:

*You say, "Hey! How was school today?" "Fine," your child says, already grabbing a book, tablet, snack, etc. And then the conversation is over.*

Children actually love to talk about their day and what they are doing. Sometimes it just takes a little bit of prompting and creating a relaxed and welcoming environment to get the conversation going. Talking about school daily is a great opportunity for your child to know that you care about them. It also gives you important insights into any problems like bullying, school anxiety, friendship challenges and more.

It can get boring and even annoying for your child if you grill them every day on the details of what they did at school. While some children will happily open up, other children might need some encouragement, and questions can be a great way to get a conversation going. Keeping questions light and simple at first is a great way to simply have fun and enjoy each other.

Here you will find a mix of questions that are fun and open-ended. You'll also find some more serious questions to help you talk about tough topics like student conflict, anxiety and fears related to school.

1. *What was your favorite part about school today?*
2. *What activity did you like the most today? And the least?*
3. *What did you think of the first assignment you had to do today?*
4. *If you could do any moment at school over today, what would it look like?*
5. *What was the funniest thing that happened in your class today?*
6. *Which assignment/activity did you feel most confident about today?*
7. *How is it going with your school activities and assignments?*
8. *What's the most interesting thing you heard at school today?*
9. *If you could change just ONE thing about school, what would that be?*
10. *What made you laugh/worry/smile in school today?*
11. *What 3 words would you use to describe your best friend in school?*
12. *If you were stranded on a deserted island with one person from your school, who do you wish that would be? How come?*
13. *If you had \$1,000 to buy something for your school, what would you buy and where would you put it?*
14. *What qualities do you like most about your teacher?*
15. *What is something your teacher said to you today that you are still thinking about?*
16. *If you could put a spell on your teacher and change tomorrow's lesson, what would you make it all about?*
17. *Who did you play with/talk with at school today?*
18. *What is your best friend's favorite part of school? Is that the same for you or different?*
19. *If a famous person could come to teach a class at your school, who would it be and what should they teach?*
20. *What parts of school today went by the fastest? Slowest?*
21. *When I went to school there were some kids that were a bit mean, teasing and such...have you noticed anything like that at your school?*
22. *There was a boy/girl in my school when I was in grade x that was bullied all the time, I never quite new what to do about that. Have you ever felt that way?*
23. *Was there anything you wanted to learn more about today but didn't have time to ask the teacher about?*
24. *What is your favorite spot in your school/classroom?*
25. *What are you looking forward to learning in school tomorrow/this month/this year?*

Talking to children about school gives you a really wonderful opportunity to discover how your child is doing, adjusting and learning. Taking this time to be together also helps you build a special bond of trust. Listening to your child in these early years is a great way to make sure your child feels comfortable and ready to talk to you about important things as they grow up.

If for some reason your child doesn't feel like talking, that's alright too. Some children need time to decompress after school before they are ready to get chatty. Follow your child's lead, strive to stay curious and willing to connect.

## FAQs About Open Enrollment and Permits



Open Enrollment is an opportunity for each student who lives within the district boundaries to apply for enrollment in any participating school within the district. This allows parents to permanently select a school in which they want their child to attend. Open

Enrollment for the 2019-20 school year begins online at 8:00 a.m. on February 5, 2019 and continues through 5:00 p.m. on February 19, 2019. The online application will be available on the District's Open Enrollment webpage: [www.scusd.edu](http://www.scusd.edu).

Remember Open Enrollment is not a first-come, first-serve basis. You can apply for a school anytime during the enrollment period.

Walk-In dates for K-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Open Enrollment are available for families who do not have access to a computer or for parents who need assistance with translation. Translators will be available in Chinese, Hmong, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese. Walk-in Dates will take place at the SCUSD Enrollment Center (5601 47th Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95824).

Walk-in Dates as follows:

- Wed, 2/13/19 from 9:00am-3:00pm
- Thurs, 2/14/19 from 12:00-5:00pm
- Fri, 2/15/19 from 9:00-11:00am

A permit is available on an annual basis for parents to select a school that is not their "home school." Approval must be given by the non-home school principal. This may or may not happen depending on the schools' enrollment. If approval is given, a permit is then signed by the non-home school principal. Dr. Eister is always accepting permits for families who want their students at our school due to our excellent programs and high expectations for academics and behavior.

Golden Empire is always looking for new and prospective students who want to attend a high-achieving and demanding academic program. Invite your neighbors who do not attend Golden Empire to consider our program. Have them visit our webpage, stop by for a visit, and/or speak with the principal to determine why Golden Empire will be an excellent opportunity for their student!

Questions? Contact the Open Enrollment Department at 916.643.9075 or come in to the school office.

We 

# VOLUNTEERS!

As we head into spring, more field trips will be happening and we appreciate all of our volunteers that want to attend and help out around the school with various classroom activities. It is SCUSD policy that all volunteers must have a Level II and/or Level III background check on file. It can take several weeks to process these checks, so please turn in your forms well in advance of the field trip or event date. Questions...please see Alison in the office.



- To Sequoia Swain, Robin Wilson, the Golden Empire PTO Board Members and all of the volunteers who helped with the December Hand-Made Holiday Craft Night. What a fun way to bring in the holidays—and what a success! We had a fun and celebratory evening thanks to your efforts!

- To Maria Avetisov, Dee Mendoza and Isabel Razo-Belman for their translation assistance during our parent/teacher/student conferences.

- To all of our classroom helpers. We couldn't do our work without your support!



## It's Never Too Early for Tax Relief

It's never too early to make a donation to the Golden Empire PTO for a 2019 tax deduction. Our PTO uses its funding to provide assemblies, classroom supplies, and enrichments for our school. Just write your check to the PTO (c/o Golden Empire Elementary) and deliver it to school or via mail. Please share this information with family and friends. Thank you!



Kindergarten Registration for the 2019-20 school year began January 15. All kindergarten registration will be done centrally at the Serna Center. As class sizes continue to be stable at 24 students per class, classes will fill up quickly! Bring your child's shot records, birth certificate, and proof of address (SMUD, PG&E, or water bill). Children who will be 5 years old by September 1, 2019 are eligible for Kindergarten.



The staff parking lot is for staff members only. Families have been seen pulling into the parking lot to drop off or pick up students. The staff parking lot is not a place for students. Please help us in keeping our students

safe! Do not use the parking lot to drop off your students. Please do not park in the parking spaces, as there are not enough parking spaces for staff members. Thank you for your cooperation.

Keeping safety at the forefront at Golden Empire, remember to always sign-in at the front office before entering the school grounds during school



hours. Most of our families are well aware of this policy, but it is just a good reminder, as this policy is enforced by Penal Code 627.2. This regulation is to ensure our students and staff are always safe, and to ensure we always know who is on campus in case of an emergency. When you sign in, we will be asking you to wear a visitor's label showing that you have registered in the office. While this is not a new policy, we just have to remind everyone to take this extra step. We appreciate your help and understanding.



Thank you for helping us "Ring in the New Year" during our 2nd annual VIP dance last month! It

was a wonderful evening dancing with friends and making memories! A very big thank you to Keri Creeger and Janessa Stewart for all of their hard work organizing this fun event! Also a big thank you to all of our volunteers who came out to help!

This month the PTO will host our annual Pancake Breakfast on Sat. 2/23/19 from 8:00 - 11:00am. We have been busy gathering silent auction and raffle items for you to enjoy. This year we will again have our famous Disney raffle! As you know, this event is not possible without your support, breakfast tickets are available after school the week before the event or via classroom order forms coming home soon. We hope you will join us!

Monthly PTO meetings are open to all Golden Empire parents. We welcome new faces and new ideas. Please join us for our next meeting on 2/12 at 6:00pm. To stay up-to-date on Golden Empire events and the PTO please like us on Facebook – [www.FB.com/goldenempirepto](http://www.FB.com/goldenempirepto).

Robin Wilson, PTO President  
[goldenempirepto@gmail.com](mailto:goldenempirepto@gmail.com)

# February and March Calendar of Events

Day	Date	Time	Event / Activity	Location
Friday	2/1		Jersey Spirit Day	
Friday	2/1	Lunch Time	Take Your Parent to Lunch Day 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> : 11:30-12:10pm 4 <sup>th</sup> : 11:45-12:25pm 1 <sup>st</sup> : 11:55-12:45pm Kindergarten: After 12:00pm dismissal 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> : 12:05-12:55pm	Grass Quad
Monday	2/4	6:00-7:15pm	Kindergarten APTT Meeting	MPR
Friday	2/8	2:15-3:15pm	Garden Club for enrolled 3 <sup>rd</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> Graders	Library
Monday	2/11		No School – Abraham Lincoln’s Birthday	
Tuesday	2/12	6:00pm	PTO Meeting – All are welcome!	Library
Thursday	2/14		Red, White, & Pink Spirit Day	
Monday	2/18		No School – George Washington’s Birthday	
Friday	2/22	12:00pm	Academic Talent Search Testing	Library
Saturday	2/23	8:00-11:00am	Pancake Breakfast & Silent Auction	MPR
Mon-Fri	2/25-3/1		Read Across America Week	
Monday	2/25		<i>“The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins”</i> – Hat Spirit Day	
Tuesday	2/26		<i>“Fox In Socks”</i> – Crazy, Silly, or Mismatched Sock Spirit Day	
Wednesday	2/27		<i>“Wacky Wednesday”</i> – Wear Your Clothes Backwards, Inside Out, or Mismatched Spirit Day	
Wednesday	2/27	6:30-8:00pm	Family Art Night	MPR
Thursday	2/28		<i>“Thing 1 &amp; Thing 2”</i> – Twin Spirit Day	
Friday	3/1		<i>“Daisy Head Mayzie”</i> – Crazy Hair Spirit Day	
Friday	3/1	Lunch Time	Take Your Parent to Lunch Day 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> : 11:30-12:10pm 4 <sup>th</sup> : 11:45-12:25pm 1 <sup>st</sup> : 11:55-12:45pm Kindergarten: After 12:00pm dismissal 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> : 12:05-12:55pm	Grass Quad
Friday	3/8	2:15-3:15pm	Garden Club for enrolled 3 <sup>rd</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> Graders	Library
Monday	3/11	2:30pm	PTO Meeting – All are welcome!	Library
Thursday	3/14	5:00-7:30pm	Spring Scholastic Book Fair	MPR
Friday	3/15		Last Day of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Trimester	
Friday	3/15		Luck o’ the Irish Spirit Day	
Friday Mon-Fri	3/15-22		Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences Minimum Day Dismissal – Kinder @ 11:35am, 1 <sup>st</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> – 12:10pm, 4 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> – 12:19pm	Classroom
Monday	3/18		First Day of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Trimester	
Thursday	3/28	8:15am 9:15am 10:15am	3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> - Trimester Awards Assembly 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> - Trimester Awards Assembly 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Trimester Awards Assembly	MPR
Friday	3/29		Dress Like Your Career Choice/Dream Job Spirit Day	
Friday	3/29	8:30am	March Mathematics Madness	Classroom

