



The Eagle Express

March 2019
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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

Families, after returning home from another wonderful Golden Empire event—our Annual Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction—I reflect on what an amazing community Golden Empire Elementary is a part of. We are so fortunate to have a community of parents who dedicate their time and talent to create opportunities to bring families together, celebrate our students, and raise much needed funds for our school. We are rich in diversity and parent involvement—this event brings the best of both strengths together. Thank you to everyone who was able to volunteer, attend, and enjoy a “school made” breakfast! And thank you to those who will consider sharing their talents for future events like these. We are stronger when we each find a way to become actively involved in our school.

Welcome Spring! With Spring right around the corner, it is also time for parent-teacher-student conferences. Conferences begin March 15 and continue through March 22. You will be contacted by your leader's teacher to set up a conference or you may request one, also. These conferences are extremely important and we know everyone will make an effort to come. As our Golden Empire leaders continue to progress we (the students and teachers) are excited and happy to share the news with you at conference time. And remember, your student will be leading much of the conference, so s/he is expected to attend the conference, also.

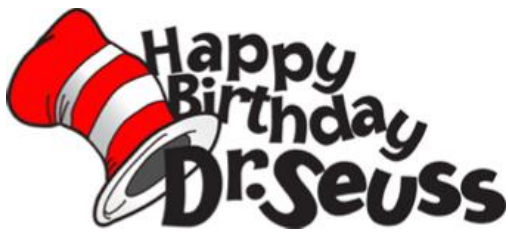
Speaking of conferences, have you heard about the Home Visit Program? Home visits are just that—a visit by 2 teachers/staff members to the student's home in the hope of increasing connections between school staff and students, in your community. Golden Empire is proud to be a partner with the California Home Visit Program, a program in 12 states, nationally. The goals are simple: to increase communication between the home and school and build relationships. This visit can also help teachers have a better understanding of the various strengths and challenges faced by each student and to meet the student and their family in a relaxed setting. Ideally home visits occur before the school year begins, but anytime is a good time for a home visit. Our teachers who are our Golden Empire Home Visit ambassadors are Mrs. Bone, Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Randazzo, Ms. Reynolds, Ms. Stadel and Mr. Mitchell. These teachers have already visited over 30 homes, and more are being scheduled. Will you and your child want a home visit? If so, please look for the flier coming home soon, or email Mrs. Randazzo at Carla-Randazzo@scusd.edu.

We all know firsthand the dangers our students face at drop-off and pick-up times. We have seen cars drive too fast down Canberra Dr. when students are in session. We are also seeing many of our parents jaywalk across the street, in a school zone, with their child. I am happy to share that the California Highway Patrol has a Rosemont officer that will be assigned just to our area. This officer will assist in ensuring drivers slow down and follow all traffic regulations near our school. I want to thank our school's Safety Committee, parents, and staff who have helped in ensuring our students' safety as they walk to and from school.

I look forward to seeing you all on campus soon. Thank you for supporting the Golden Empire School Community!

~ Dr. Irene Eister, Principal

Thank
You,
and



Read Across America is an initiative on reading created by the National Education Association. A major component of the project is National Read Across America Day, an observance in the United States held on the school day closest to March 2, the birthday of Dr. Seuss. Read Across America Day is a day where reading is celebrated by everyone. It is also the birthday of a very famous author, Dr. Seuss, whose real name was Dr. Theodor Seuss Geisel.

Dr. Seuss was an American writer, poet, and cartoonist. Of course we mostly know him by the many children's books he wrote and illustrated. Dr. Seuss wrote over 60 children's books including Green Eggs and Ham, The Cat in the Hat, The Lorax, How the Grinch Stole Christmas, and One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish. In his early years he also worked as an illustrator for advertising campaigns, most notably for Standard Oil and as a political cartoonist. During World War II, he worked in an animation department of the United States Army. Dr. Seuss was born on March 2, 1904 in Springfield, Massachusetts and died in 1991 in California.

Did you know that Dr. Seuss was a perfectionist in his work and would sometimes spend up to a year on just one book? It was not uncommon for him to throw out 95% of his material until he settled on a theme for his book.

So on March 2 we celebrate the joy of reading and Dr. Seuss' birthday. We hope you take a few moments and pick up a great book. Just know that "Today is your day. Congratulations! You're off to great places, you're off and away. Today is your day. Your mountain is waiting. So, get on your way!"

Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss! And Happy Read Across America Day!

Mr. Lovrin's Library News

Our Spring Book Fair is coming up quickly. Please make sure to mark your calendars for March 14, 2019. There will be many great books to enjoy. Allowing students to direct their reading helps them find books that interest them. Fun new tales and adventures await at the book fair. Kona Ice will be available for a fun treat. Come enjoy the family fun!

As you expand your library at the Book Fair, you may find some books that you haven't read in a long time, and don't intend to read again. This is a great opportunity to make sure that students have books available to them. At our Leadership Showcase in May we will have a book sale where we will sell books at greatly discounted prices. In order to do this, we need your help. Please go through the books you have at home and find any that you might be willing to donate to the school. Any help will be greatly appreciated!

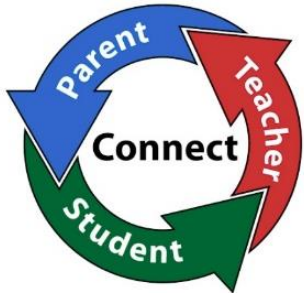
Library Book Bingo is in full swing! We already have many students that have completed their first bingo, and even one blackout! It is exciting to see the students expanding their knowledge by reading many different types of books to complete their bingo cards. We even have many students trying their hand at art for the first time. If you have students in 4th grade or higher in your home, please encourage them to continue reading and writing.

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



It's Time for Student-Parent-Teacher Conferences!

*Adapted from Baltimore County Public Schools
Office of Family & Community Engagement*



What are student-led conferences? The basic concept: students lead the conferences about their academic progress. They take ownership of their learning experience, sitting at the table with parents and teachers. Students generally share their body of work through portfolios and work samples and at Golden Empire, their Leadership Notebook. Golden Empire is proud to implement student-led conferences, allowing our students to show their leadership traits and take ownership of their learning!

What is a Student-Led Conference?

A student-led conference is a preplanned meeting in which students demonstrate responsibility for their academic performance by providing a review of their work for parents and teachers. The students lead the conference by presenting work samples and discussing their learning. Student-led conferences differ from the traditional parent/teacher conferences:

- Students participate in all stages of the conference. They prepare and organize work samples, use checklists to demonstrate new learning, present their Leadership Notebook and plan next steps.
- Students lead the conversation to show what they have learned. They receive feedback from their parents and teacher about strengths and goals (WIGs) for improvement.
- Student-led conferences benefit students, parents, and teachers.
- Students take more ownership of their learning.
- Parents and students have open communication about their WIGs, academics, behaviors, and other important decisions in life.
- Teachers establish a stronger working relationship with parents and students.

What is the Role of the Student? Students lead the conference. With the help of their teacher, students:

- Collect work samples to share with their parents.
- Review their work with the teacher and think about learning goals/WIGs.
- Share and discuss learning with their parents.
- Identify strengths and learning goals/WIGs with parents and teachers.
- Connect their learning to long-term career goals.
- Determine next steps to improve learning.

What is the Role of the Parent?

- Parents participate as active listeners and as advocates for their child.
- Prepare a list of questions for discussion.
- Encourage their child's involvement in the learning process.
- Provide encouragement, praise, and reinforcement.
- Assist their child in identifying strengths and learning goals/WIGs.
- Work with their child and teachers to determine the next steps for learning.
- Discuss the long-term value of their child's engagement in learning.
- Continue to review new goals/WIGs and the next steps for learning with their child

What is the Role of the Teacher?

- Teachers help students prepare for the conference. They:
- Guide students in the collection of work samples and review of learning goals/WIGs.
 - Review the student's Leadership Notebook and learning goals/WIGs.
 - Explain the conference as a learning process to parents.
 - Act as a guide and offer feedback.
 - Identify new learning goals/WIGs with students and parents.
 - Inquire about students' long-term career goals.
 - Assist students and parents in determining the next steps for learning.
 - Provide feedback to students and parents about the conference process.

We look forward to seeing our families at Spring Conferences! Remember to have your student attend so s/he can lead the conference.

Make the Most of Student, Parent, & Teacher Conferences

Student-Parent-Teacher conferences are great opportunities for students and teachers to focus entirely on communication. Here are some helpful tips that will make the most of your student-parent-teacher conference:

★ Bring your student! Teachers will have your child lead the conference. Your child knows the routines and her/his strengths and areas for improvement. Let her be a part of this important meeting!

★ Learn about your child's progress. It's important to find out how your child is progressing academically as well as how he interacts with his peers, if he participates in class and if he is well behaved. Listen carefully to what your child's teacher says, and ask yourself if you note similar patterns at home.

★ Share your insights with your child's teacher. A conference is a good opportunity to hear from your child's teacher, and you can give the teacher valuable information that could help your child learn more effectively.

★ Discuss your child's strengths and challenges. Through comparing areas where your child excels with areas in need of improvement, you can identify ways to support your child's learning at home.

★ Ask questions—of your student and the teacher. This is one of the most important aspects of a successful conference. Such as: How much time should my child spend on homework each night? How can I reinforce classroom lessons at home? What are some activities, games or other strategies that I can use to further my child's learning at home? How can I stay connected? What are some ways I can keep track of my child's progress, assignments and activities?

Do your best to make the most of your student-parent-teacher conference. The more informed you become, the better you, your child and your child's teacher can work together as a successful team.



Minimum Day Schedule for Spring Conferences

March 15-22, 2019

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Dismissal Time</u>
Kindergarten	11:35am
Grades 1-3	12:10pm
Gades 4-6	12:19pm

Before dropping your child off for school, please review with your student(s) if s/he will have lunch on campus. ASES will begin immediately after school dismissal.



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 4th–9th 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 (this already occurred here @ Golden Empire, but you can contact the ATS office at 916. 278.7032 for the next testing date). Financial aid is available. Visit www.csus.edu/coe/ats/ for more information.

Do You Know Your Geography as Well as Elexsis?

Meet Our 2019 Geography Bee Winner!



On January 27, Golden Empire held its annual Geography Bee, coordinated by 6th grade teacher Ms. Hogg-Wood and facilitated by kindergarten teacher Mrs. Randazzo. Nineteen bright intermediate students competed

in this tough but interesting contest. The Geography Bee is run by the National Geographic Society and includes students in grades 4 through 8.

We had fierce competition here at Golden Empire! Our second runner-up was Uriah Davis, a 6th grade student from Ms. Reynold's class. Our 2019 Geography Bee winner is 4th grader Elexsis Song-Miller from Mrs. Kurihara's class. Congratulations Elexsis!!

Want to test your geographic knowledge? Try these questions taken from the Geography Bee:

1. The Sea of Azov, which borders Ukraine and Russia, is an inlet of which larger inland sea?
A. Red Sea B. Black Sea C. Aral Sea
2. Denim is a fabric named for the city of Nimes, where it was first made. This city is west of the Rhone River in what country?
A. Italy B. Hungary C. France
3. Which of these cities has the coolest average annual temperature?
A. Tulsa B. Miami C. Boise
4. Which of the following is not a country in Eastern Europe?
A. Romania B. Mauritania C. Albania
5. The crocus flower, whose dried parts are used to make the fragrant spice saffron, is not cultivated in which of these countries?
A. Poland B. Morocco C. Iran

Answers:

1. Black Sea. 2. France 3. Boise 4. Mauritania 5. Poland

Lost & Found

We have a number of items collected in our Lost and Found clothing rack. Each morning Mr. Ron, our Plant Manager, places the rack out front near the cafeteria doors hoping the items will find their owners! Any items not finding their owners are sent to the District's Clothes Closet on a monthly basis. If your child has lost something, feel free to come by and look.

Golden Empire Students Prepare for March Mathematics Madness! (M³)

We all know how important it is for students to memorize their math facts; not knowing the basic facts makes math difficult. Golden Empire teachers and staff have emphasized math facts, making it a school-wide focus. On March 29, students will take a math fact test, appropriate for their grade level. Students who successfully complete the assessment with 97% accuracy will be rewarded with a certificate of achievement and Brag Tag. Furthermore, ready for this? There will be some students who will still have time to complete extra problems during their allotted time. The student in each grade who completes the most questions beyond the first problems will each receive a gift card honoring their accomplishment! Wow! We wish our Eagles happy memorizing in preparing for M³!

UC DAVIS HEALTH | CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Money for Miracles A Program for Change

Golden Empire is partnering with the Children's Miracle Network (CMN) at UC Davis to raise funds to help sick and injured children. One of our own Golden Empire students received life-saving care from UC Davis Children's Hospital when he was diagnosed with brain cancer.

Now we are inviting you to give back by participating in a change drive through March 22, 2019. The funds raised will benefit the CMN at UC Davis and the Golden Empire PTO. Prizes will be given to the highest fundraising classes.



Help our school receive an award worth thousands

FROM SCHOLARSHARE 529, CALIFORNIA'S COLLEGE SAVINGS PLAN!

California's 2019 Scholar Dollars Program will help support the K-8 extracurricular and enrichment activities we care about!

Golden Empire Elementary is competing for a \$15,000 award to fund technology, field trips, and PE equipment.

Be sure to vote for our school every day between March 11-22, 2019, at MyScholarDollars.com and help us secure these funds!

ScholarShare529SM
2019 SCHOLAR DOLLARS



Visit MyScholarDollars.com to watch a brief video from the State Treasurer about the Scholar Dollars Program.

ScholarShare 529 College Savings Plan is overseen by the ScholarShare Investment Board, which is chaired by State Treasurer Fiona Ma, and managed by TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc. ScholarShare 529 provides families with a diverse set of investment options, tax-deferred growth, and withdrawals free from state and federal taxes when used for qualified higher education expenses at eligible educational institutions.



Need Your Support for Golden Empire's Basketball Team!

All are welcome to come out to watch and support the Golden Empire Team. The schedule is as follows. Go Golden Eagles!

Date	Time	Location	Playing Against
3/6	3:45pm	Rosemont HS	Sequoia
3/13	3:45pm	Einstein MS	Isador Cohen
3/20	3:45pm	Rosemont HS	OW Erlewine
3/27	3:45pm	Einstein MS	Abraham Lincoln
4/3	3:45pm	Rosemont HS	Hubert Bancroft
4/10	TBD		Playoffs



Second Trimester



Our Awards Assemblies will take place on March 28 in our school's Multi-Purpose Room. Everyone is welcome to attend to see many of our students receive awards and celebrate their successes. Please see the times below for each assembly:

- 8:15am - 3rd & 4th Grades
- 9:15am - 5th & 6th Grades
- 10:30am - 1st & 2nd Grades

More Time for Reading!

We are thrilled to share that our school library is open every morning, from 7:30-8:00am! Students can come to the library each morning before school instead of sitting in the cafeteria. Or, after the students eat breakfast, they can then go to the library to read or browse for new library books. We hope your student will access our library before the start of school!



Thank you for joining us for our annual Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction last

month! The food was delicious, the silent auction and raffles were fun, and announcing the Disneyland winner is always exciting! Through your donations, silent auction bids, raffle ticket and meal ticket purchases you helped raise \$6,500 for the PTO! Thank you! This event was possible due to the hard work of our amazing co-chairs, Mary Brittain and Janessa Stewart. Thank you Mary and Janessa for a fun and successful event! Thank you to all of the parents, teachers and staff who volunteered their time and energy for this event and to our students and families for joining us! Also a very big thank you to all of our community supporters that helped make our breakfast possible!

Mark your calendars! Our next big event is McTeacher's Night on April 11th. We hope to see you all there!

Robin Wilson, PTO President
goldenempirepto@gmail.com



-To Mary Brittain and Janessa Stewart, Pancake Breakfast Co-Chairpersons, for all of their help in organizing and facilitating our Annual Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction. Thanks to the Golden Empire Community, we raised \$6,500 for our school's PTO. These funds will be used for field trips, classroom enrichment resources, and for funding our school band. Thank you all for your generosity!

-To the Teachers and Staff who volunteered their time prepping, cooking, serving, and cleaning during the Pancake Breakfast. We also thank the many teachers and classes who donated auction items to benefit our PTO!

-To all the businesses, companies, and organizations that donated to our Silent Auction. You are wonderful and generous!

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



Preparing for Spring State Testing—The CAASPP

California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress

The California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress, or CAASPP, is the state academic testing program. CAASPP is a system intended to provide information that can be used to monitor student progress and ensure that all students leave high school ready for college and career. The CAASPP includes computer adaptive tests in English–language arts and mathematics as well as paper-based tests for 5th grade science (part of the old STAR system, which are state-normed).

What are the Smarter Balanced Assessments?

The Smarter Balanced assessments are computer-based tests that measure student knowledge of California's English language arts/literacy and mathematics standards. Smarter Balanced Assessments are part of the testing program called the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP).

What will the Smarter Balanced tests measure?

Smarter Balanced tests provide one measure of student knowledge of the subject matter, critical thinking, analytical writing, and problem solving skills they need to prepare for and succeed in today's world. These assessments provide important information as to whether students are on track to pursue college and career by the time they graduate from high school. The tests provide timely and actionable student information so that teachers and schools can adjust and improve teaching.

When will we test at Golden Empire?

Lessons learned from last year's test will help ensure a successful implementation of the CAASPP system this school year. Golden Empire students will take the CAASPP tests in grades 3 - 6 in April and May 2019. Students will not be testing this entire time span—each grade level will test for approximately one week, total. An exact schedule will be sent home soon.

What about 5th graders taking the Science test?

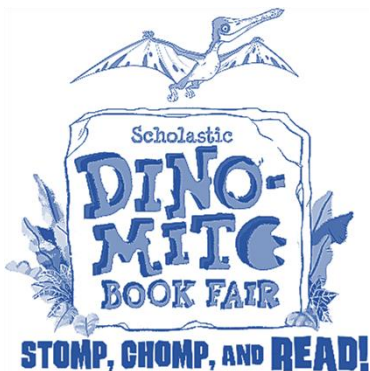
California Science Tests (CAST) will “count” this year. All students enrolled in 5th grade will be administered the science test. This new assessment is aligned with the California Next Generation Science Standards.

How can I learn more about these tests?

To learn more about these tests, visit CDE's Test Score Guide Web site at <http://www.testscoreguide.org/ca>, which provides informative guides and test score descriptions as well as sample test items at different levels of difficulty. Another great resource are the Practice and Training Tests, which can be found on the CDE's Smarter Balanced Practice and Training Tests Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/practicetest.asp>. Here, parents can experience the kinds of questions that students will encounter on the tests.

Will parents/guardians receive individual score reports?

Following the spring 2019 testing, students will receive individual score reports. Student score reports will be sent home to parents and will include an overall score, a description of the student's achievement level for English–language arts and mathematics, and other information.



Join us for the Scholastic Dino-Mite Book Fair!
We will stomp, chomp, and read!

Date: March 14, 2019

Time: 5:00-7:30pm

Where: Golden Empire Multi-Purpose Room

March and April Calendar of Events

Day	Date	Time	Event / Activity	Location
Wednesday	3/6	4:45pm	Basketball Game vs. Sequoia	Rosemont HS
Friday	3/8	2:15-3:15pm	Garden Club for enrolled 3 rd -6 th Graders	Library
Monday	3/11	2:30pm	PTO Meeting – All are welcome!	Library
Wednesday	3/13	3:45pm	Basketball Game vs. Isador Cohen	Albert Einstein Middle School
Thursday	3/14	5:00-7:30pm	Spring Scholastic Book Fair	MPR
Friday	3/15		Last Day of the 2 nd 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 st -3 rd – 12:10pm, 4 th -6 th – 12:19pm	Classroom
Monday	3/18		First Day of the 3 rd Trimester	
Wednesday	3/20	3:45pm	Basketball Game vs. O. W. Erlewine	Rosemont HS
Friday	3/22		Last Day of Money for Miracles Campaign	Classroom
Wednesday	3/27	3:45pm	Basketball Game vs. Abe Lincoln	Albert Einstein Middle School
Thursday	3/28	8:15am 9:15am 10:30am	3 rd & 4 th - Trimester Awards Assembly 5 th & 6 th - Trimester Awards Assembly 1 st & 2 nd - 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
Wednesday	4/3	2:02pm	Kona Ice is BACK! \$3.00 - exact change please	In Front of School
Wednesday	4/3	4:45pm	Basketball Game vs. Hubert Bancroft	Rosemont HS
Thursday	4/4		Spring Picture Day	
Friday	4/5	Lunch Time	Take Your Parent to Lunch Day 5 th & 6 th : 11:30-12:10pm 4 th : 11:45-12:25pm 1 st : 11:55-12:45pm Kindergarten: After 12:00pm dismissal 2 nd & 3 rd : 12:05-12:55pm	Grass Quad
Monday	4/8	2:30pm	PTO Meeting – All are welcome!	Library
Thursday	4/11	5:00-7:00pm	McTeacher's Night	Folsom & Manlove
Friday	4/12		Silly Sock & Slipper Day	
Friday	4/12	9:00am	Poetry Jam	MPR
Friday	4/12	2:15-3:15pm	Garden Club for enrolled 3 rd -6 th Graders	Library
Mon-Fri	4/15-19		Spring Break	
Mon-Fri	4/22-26		6 th Grade at Sly Park	
Tuesday	4/23	6:30-8:00pm	Family Picnic & Game Night	MPR & Quad
Wednesday	4/24	2:02pm	Kona Ice - \$3.00 exact change please	In Front of School

