



# The Eagle Express

May 2018  
Volume 14, Issue 8

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

With May on the calendar it usually means one thing: testing and assessment time! Throughout California, students are participating in the Common Core State Standards assessments: the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) Test. California has replaced the old pencil-and-paper tests taken each spring with computer-based assessments tied to more modern learning goals for students.

Our students, like thousands of others across the state, are taking the CAASPP Test now. The CAASPP tests are completely computer-based. The students take the test on Apple Macbook Air laptops which were provided by the school district. As there are only 3 classroom sets of computers, students will take the CAASPP test on different days. The state is also requiring current 5<sup>th</sup> grade students to take the science test. You will find a schedule enclosed in this newsletter so you know which days your student(s) will test.

The CAASPP tests are aligned to the Common Core State Standards for English and math. The Common Core standards describe what students should know and be able to do at every grade level. Designed to prepare students for college and careers, Common Core standards are very challenging and ask students to solve problems, think critically, read complex text and practice academic writing, such as essays and reports.

Families, of course you know that you play a very important part in your student's education. Encouraging students to do their best in school and showing positive attitudes toward completing school assignments well and on time can positively affect learning. Research about how students learn shows that a great deal can be done at home to increase a student's academic performance. Most important of all, let your students know how important their work at school is and how interested you are in what they are doing. Talk with them every day about what they did at school, what homework must be finished for the next day, and what needs to be done on a future project. At Golden Empire, we are so proud of our students and how much they are learning. We know the CAASPP test is an opportunity for them to show off all that they know!

Did you remember that May 7—11 is National Teacher Appreciation Week? And the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of May is Classified Employees Appreciation and Nurse's Week? This is a chance to shower our teachers with well-deserved thanks, as well as our classified employees who go out of their way to support our students' education. The next time you see your child's teacher, our custodians, office staff, cafeteria workers and other employees, thank her or him for doing a fabulous job supporting our students' education.

Thank you, families, for making Golden Empire one of the top 10 schools in the district!  
~ Dr. Eister, Principal

## CAASPP Tests are Here

The California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress, or CAASPP, is the state academic testing program. CAASPP is a system to provide information that can be used to monitor student progress and ensure all students leave high school ready for college and career. CAASPP includes computer adaptive tests in English–language arts, mathematics and science (for 5<sup>th</sup> grade only).

Students' testing schedule is as follows:

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Teacher</b>	<b>Dates</b>
3	Brown	Mon 4/30 - Fri 5/4
3	Conway	Mon 4/30 - Fri 5/4
3	Gardner	Mon 4/30 - Fri 5/4
3/4	Macey	Mon 5/7 - Fri 5/11
4	Conklin	Mon 5/7 - Fri 5/11
4	Johnson	Mon 5/7 - Fri 5/11
4/5/6	DaCastello	Mon 5/7 - Fri 5/11
6	Engstrom	Mon 5/14 - Fri 5/18
6	Hogg-Wood	Mon 5/14 - Fri 5/18
6	Witteborg	Mon 5/14 - Fri 5/18

To learn about the types of questions on the computer-based test, you and your child can view the practice test online at the California Department of Education (CDE) Smarter Balanced Practice Test Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/pract/ictest.asp>.

Following testing, students will receive individual score reports. These score reports will be sent home to parents and will include an overall score, a description of the student's achievement levels, and other information.

For more information, visit the Parent/Student tab of the CDE CAASPP Web page at [www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/](http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/). If you have questions regarding your child's participation, contact Dr. Eister at 395.4580 or via email: [irenei@scusd.edu](mailto:irenei@scusd.edu).



## Be Kind to Our GE Neighbors!

As you know, Golden Empire has very limited parking. The school was built in the late 70s when most students walked to school. A reminder that the parking lot is for staff. Please refrain from using the staff parking spaces at all times. We have many itinerant staff members who arrive at various times during the day/week and must be able to reach the building quickly to fulfill their responsibilities.

Red Curb Areas: Please do not leave your car unattended in the red curb areas. These areas are fire zones and must remain clear at all times.

Neighbors: Please be considerate of our neighbors. Do not block any driveways or park illegally.

Thank you for your cooperation!



## READY, SET, READ!

Our school year is quickly coming to an end! Thank you for supporting your students and the library. What a joy it has been to see these students blossom into great readers.☺ We have many new books that will be in our system and available for check out in September. That sounds far away but, trust me, it is not. Be sure to continue this reading trend through the summer. Our county libraries are great and have a number of super summer activities. Check out the schedules posted in the county libraries or on their websites.

Make sure that your student has all library books returned by Monday, June 4<sup>th</sup>. Books are, truly, treasures waiting to be discovered. Help your students discover the unpredictable world of books. Open the pages of your imagination – READ! ☺

Thanks for all the great memories. ~Mrs. Perry

## Do You Know About Golden Empire's GATE Program?



Golden Empire Elementary has implemented the GATE Cluster Model to provide specialized education for students who have been identified as "gifted and talented" (GATE). These students are clustered in a classroom where the teacher has had training in differentiating instruction for GATE students. While all teachers on our staff have been trained in this type of differentiation, clustering the GATE students in a classroom provides them with opportunity to be in a unique setting where they can challenge and be challenged by like-minded students, and they can learn from the strengths of all types of learners.

What Does it Mean to Place Gifted Students in Cluster Groups? A group of three to six identified gifted students, usually those in the top 5% of ability in the grade level population, are clustered in a mixed-ability classroom. The teacher has had training in how to teach exceptionally capable students. If there are more than six gifted students, two or more clusters could be formed.

Why Should Gifted Students Be Placed in a Cluster Group Instead of Being Assigned Evenly to All Classes? When teachers try to meet the diverse learning needs of all students, it becomes extremely difficult to provide adequately for everyone. Often, the highest ability students are expected to "make it on their own." When a teacher has several gifted students, taking the time to make appropriate provisions for them seems more realistic. Furthermore, gifted students can better understand and accept their learning differences if there are others just like them in the class. Finally, scheduling out-of-class activities is easier when the resource teacher has only one cluster teacher's schedule with which to work.

What Are the Learning Needs of Gifted Students? Since these students have previously mastered many of the concepts they are expected to "learn" in a given class, a huge part of their school time may be wasted. They need exactly what all other students need: consistent opportunity to learn new material and to develop the behaviors that allow them to cope with the challenge and struggle of new learning. It is very difficult for such students to have those needs met in heterogeneous classes.

Don't We Need Gifted Students in All Classes So They Can Help Others Learn Through Cooperative Learning, Peer Tutoring, and Other Collaborative Models? When gifted students are placed in mixed-ability groups for cooperative learning, they frequently become tutors. Other students in these groups may rely on the gifted to do most of the work and may actually learn less than when the gifted students are not in their groups.

What Are the Advantages of Cluster Grouping? Gifted students feel more comfortable when there are other students just like them in the class. They are more likely to choose more challenging tasks when other students will also be eligible. Teachers no longer have to deal with the strain of trying to meet the needs of just one precocious student in a class. Teachers are also more likely to provide appropriate learning opportunities if more than one student will benefit. The school is able to provide a full-time, cost-effective program for gifted students since their learning needs are being met every day.



**Join Golden Empire teachers as they serve your favorite McDonald's meal and help raise money for Golden Empire.**

**Thurs., May 17<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-7:00pm**

**Eat In - Take Out - Drive Thru**

*8901 Folsom Blvd, Sacramento 95826 (Corner of Folsom Blvd & Manlove Rd)*

*25% of all sales are donated to the Golden Empire PTO*

# Golden Empire Students Shine Earning Bronze, Silver and Gold Medals!

Answer these questions: What common elements are found in organic compounds? Which gases do plants use in photosynthesis? A factory makes 1,200 shirts every 6 hours. The factory makes shirts for 9 hours each workday. Enter the fewest number of workdays the factory will need to make 12,600 shirts. Golden Empire's 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade students answered these types of questions and more on last year's CAASPP and/or CST Science Test they took back in April/May 2017.

We are thrilled to share that at the April 2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester Awards Ceremonies, we will award students 15 bronze medals (students who improved a level on CAASPP), 102 silver medals (students who scored meeting standards) and 71 gold medals (students who exceeded standards)! Amazing!

All of these students demonstrate that good test taking strategies are the key to testing their best: taking as long as they need on the test (no section of the test is timed), re-reading the questions and ensuring they have marked the correct answer, checking their work often and staying relaxed and focused. Congratulations to you!

## Bronze Award Winners

<i>Students Who Improved a Level on the CAASPP</i>				
Emma Grigoryan	Valentino Marks	Clifton NesSmith	Jayden Reed	Isabella Villarreal
Jimmy Ildefonso Leon	Trayvon Marshall	James Orozco	Mackenzie Salazar	Roman Vogel
Emanuel Kimakovskiy	Xelah Merisier	Cassandra Prado	Emily Ta	

## Silver Award Winners

<i>Students Who Scored Meeting Standards</i>				
Junaid Amiri	David Cruz	Jeremiah Guthrie	Ricardo Morales	Leah Silva
Alexys Barnum	Jerimiah Dawson	Giselle Gutierrez	Lia Mutter	Alliya Smith
Alyssa Bentz	Emily Del Cid	Elizabeth Henley	Justin Nguyen Trinh	Ella Tsymbal
Joseph Bonilla	Ashlyn DeVore	Trenton Hernandez	Yazmeen Nidez	Irving Valdivia
James Brown	Lincoln Diaz-Upton	Torey Hobby	Natalie Nino-Gilbert	Gabriyanna Vegafria
Taaliyah Brown	Tri Duong	Sohpia Houston	Isabel Nunez	Melanie Wadley
Curtis Burks	Rayan El-Morshedy	Justin Insixiengmay	Jovani Onedera	Nicholas Wafula
Kaylee Byrd	Fernando Escamilla	Ellona Ivanina	Terry Peguese	Bryden Washburn
Michael Calles	Kamryn Ferguson	Jasmine Johnson	Joseph Quesada Veiga	Aubrey Watts
Anthony Cano	Ayden Friedenbloom	Lilit Karapetyan	Iris Ramsey	Ryan Wilson
Audrey Carroll	Elyciana Garcia	Casey Liang	Madeline Reeves	Justin Xiong
Lailah Cervantes	Jasmine Gilmore	Brooklin Logan	Anthony Ricardos	Atiana Yentes
Avril Monique Cisneros	Carissa Goga	Juliana Lopez	Bryant Richman	Layla Young
Makayla Constancio	Hailey Gonzales	Adrian Marquez	Valeria Romo Porras	Jalaya Cozart
Angelena Gonzalez-Rocha	Julissa Martinez	Michaela Sacapanio	James Cozart	Madison Grebel-Olstad
Eljay Meyers	Alina Sanchez	Ashley Cruces	Artur Gryaznov	Isabella Miller
Emory Scott				

## Gold Award Winners

<i>Students Who Scored Exceeding Standards</i>				
Savannah Arroyo	Uriah Davis	Nicolas Gonzalez	Matthew Phipps	Jasdeep Uppal
Nevayah Bell	Angelita De La Torre	Samuel Kast	William Rodrigues	Joshua Walters
Marie Isabel Bernales	Diego Delgado	Thadeus Kim	Gabriel Sanchez	Brooklyn Williams
Jullian Buell	Aletheia Dorton	David Kushnirchuk	Sheyenne Scranton	Jeremy Wolfe
Kaylie Bui	McKenna Dowd	Lina Kushnirchuk	Roneel Singh	Justin Wolfe
Connor Cagle	Sophia Esquivel	Noah Mayberry	Alishawnee Stacey	Valerie Yang
Jason Chen	Dylan Farrell	Xeniah Merisier	Viana Trinh	Noah Zillig
Maxton Creeger	Lesli Gomez Marquez	Rollond Phamuong	Andy Truong	

## Perfect Score Award Winners

<i>Students Who Scored a PERFECT Score on the CAASPP Test</i>				
Braydon Barnum	Connor Cagle	Thadeus Kim	Roneel Singh	Joshua Walters
Marcus Bui				





Are you receiving the weekly Infinite Campus emails from Dr. Eister? If not, we do not have your email on file. Stop in the office to provide us with your email, or email our office clerk, Liz Addobati, with your email address at [lizad@scusd.edu](mailto:lizad@scusd.edu). We will update your information. These weekly emails inform you about all of the weekly events happening at Golden Empire. Stay in the loop—get informed!

## Teacher Requests for the 2018-2019 School Year

Each year classrooms are developed by equally balancing different categories of students such as gender, ethnicity, behavior, academics, and students with special needs. This year all teacher requests must be turned in to the office during Teacher Request Week, June 4—8. Requests are considered but all factors must be weighed when developing new classes. Requests are not guaranteed. Forms are available in the school office.



All students entering grades 7-12 this fall, August 2018, must show proof of receiving their TDAP (tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis) booster before they can attend school in September. This applies to every current student, new student and transfer student. Please bring proof of this booster to school to be reviewed and recorded. Visit [www.shotsforschool.org](http://www.shotsforschool.org)



## Mark Your Calendars— School Starts Thursday August 30, 2018!

Mark your calendars: The first day of school next fall is Thursday, August 30. Moving the first day back a few days gives teachers and students a jump-start on the fall and a chance to squeeze in more classroom learning. A Win-Win! You can download the 2018-19 School Calendar by visiting [www.scusd.edu](http://www.scusd.edu).

## We Need YOU for Our School Site Council

Are you interested in serving on our school's School Site Council for next year? Maybe you know of a parent/guardian who would be interested? Please review our election/nomination form in this newsletter. We are looking for parents/guardians who are willing to serve a 2-year term. Thanks for your help in making the Golden Empire Eagles soar!



- To our PTO for sponsoring a Teacher Recognition Luncheon for our fabulous teachers! Very thoughtful!
- To Isabel Razo-Belman for translating many of our parent notes in Spanish.
- To Jas Singh and Andrea Zawalick for their help with the Perfect Attendance Ice Cream Social.
- To all of our classroom helpers. We couldn't do our work without your support!



## Leadership Showcase

Thursday, May 31<sup>st</sup>

Golden Empire's Leadership Showcase (previously known as Open House) will take place on Thursday, May 31. The Leadership Showcase and Variety Show begins at 5 pm and classrooms open from 6-7 pm. We look forward to seeing all of our families there!

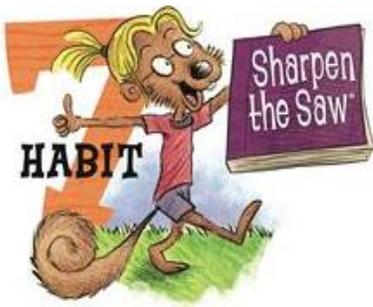
# We Are A Leader in Me School!

As shared in the October newsletter, Golden Empire is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of implementing The Leader in Me program (TLIM) where students are taught and practice the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. TLIM program empowers young people to make positive, effective, and responsible choices by introducing and reinforcing the 7 Habits, a set of leadership and life skills from Stephen Covey's book The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. TLIM focuses on personal leadership, provides students with activities that will help them learn practical character and life skills that will lead to those positive choices. The staff at Golden Empire has made the commitment to model and implement the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People in order to provide a caring and nurturing environment for our students.

Each month we will focus on one of the seven habits to help our families become more familiar with the habits. Last month we introduced Habit 6-Synergize. We will continue with Habit 7.

## Habit 7 – Sharpen the Saw

Body, Brain, Heart, and Soul



Habit 7 is Sharpen the Saw – “Balance is best.” We are more productive when we have balance in our lives. Body, brain, heart, and soul. Like four tires on a car, if one area is being ignored or overused, the rest feel the results. A car cannot run on fewer than four tires. It needs fuel and maintenance. Likewise we need to recharge and take care of our body (physical), brain (mental), heart (emotional), and soul (spirit) to make us balanced, happy people.

### Ways to Apply at Home

- Activity Center. Have a place with supplies kids can use: arts & crafts supplies, learning games, puzzle, classical music, books, beautiful pictures, inspirational stories.
- Brainstorm. Discuss ways to Sharpen the Saw in every area. Body: playing outside, riding bikes, sleep, nutrition. Brain: reading, some educational shows, mind puzzles. Heart: time with friends, playing with a pet, drawing. Soul: keep a journal, prayer, time in nature.
- Library. Visit the Library often as a family. Discuss your favorite stories with your children. Read short stories or articles from good magazines together.
- Family Devotional. Set aside time each day as a family for some kind of spiritual connection and discussion. Meditation, a scripture verse, a walk in nature.
- Adventure. Try something new as a family! Museums, new foods, volunteer, new games.

### Words to Use

- “Remember to sharpen the saw.”
- “Are you in balance?”
- “Did you tend all your areas?”
- “Let’s try something new.”
- “What makes you feel happy?”
- “How have you tended your (heart/soul/body/mind) recently?”



## What is an SST?



The Student Study Team (SST) is a school-based process to review individual student needs. It is a positive, solution-focused team which analyzes

current student data and makes recommendations for the additional instructional strategies or interventions to support the student in the general education classroom.

An SST can be requested by any member of the educational team, including the parent/guardian. Parents may request an SST meeting by alerting the teacher or principal. A meeting will be calendared for the parents, teacher and SST team to attend. The Team may be comprised of the principal, teacher, resource teacher, speech teacher, and the school psychologist.

The SST process is a fluid one where intervention strategies are recommended, implemented for an extended period of time (6-8 weeks) and reviewed by the team in a follow-up SST meeting. Data is collected so that analysis of student progress can be reviewed over time.

## Trouble with Tardies!

Promptness to class is extremely important. Golden Empire Elementary is a high achieving school focused on the California State Standards. Frequent tardies and absences jeopardize your child's ability to meet these standards. Interruptions due to tardiness distract learning and are disruptive to the class. We appreciate your cooperation with the following:

- Children must be in line at the assembly area and ready to go to class at 8:00 a.m.
- Drop-off time is from 7:30 a.m. to when the first bell rings at 7:58 a.m. Students are to be in their class lines and ready for instruction when the bell sounds.
- There is no grace period for tardies.
- Parents may not drive into the parking lot to drop off their children to classrooms—this is extremely dangerous!
- Tardy students are to report to the office as soon as they arrive at school.
- Students who are truant, chronically tardy and/or habitually absent may be referred to the SART (School Attendance Review Team).
- If your child must be absent, call the absence line (each day that your child is absent) at (916) 395-4580. This phone is operational 24 hours a day, therefore you may report the absence the evening before.



Thank you for joining us for our 5th Annual Family Movie Night last week! It was so nice to see all of our families have a relaxing evening under the stars to watch Wonder.

A big thank you to Alison Milobar for making this fun event happen!

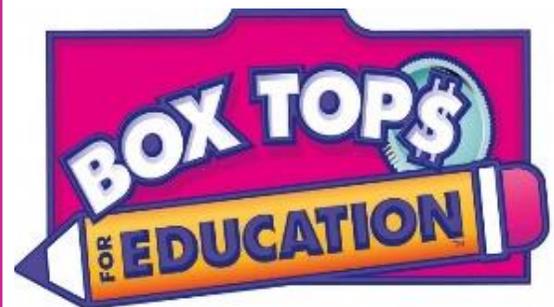
McTeacher's Night is rescheduled for Thursday, May 17th, 5:00pm to 7:00pm at Folsom Blvd & Manlove Rd. Please join us for a fun meal served by teachers and McDonald's will give us 25% of all purchases!

Also this month is the final BoxTops Challenge of the year. For every 500 Box Tops collected, one teacher will be wrapped like a mummy during a special assembly in June.

Also in May, the PTO will be doing a campus beautification rock painting project for the school. Please be sure to check it out during Leadership Showcase!

Robin Wilson, PTO President  
goldenempirepto@gmail.com

It is time to turn in  
BoxTops!

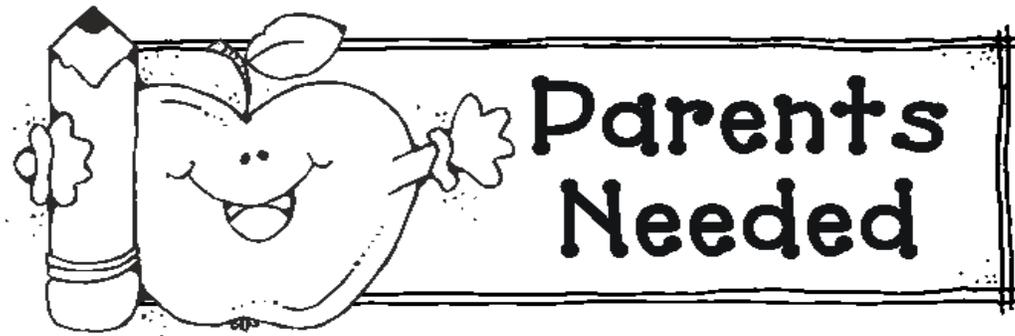


Check out the BoxTops Bulletin Board on the Quad to see how many BoxTops have been turned in.

# May and June Calendar of Events

Day	Date	Time	Event / Activity	Location
Mon-Fri	5/14-5/18		Classified Staff Appreciation Week	
Monday	5/14		Ms. Engstrom, Ms. Hogg-Wood, & Mrs. Witteborg's classes begin CAASPP testing	
Monday	5/14	2:30pm	PTO Meeting	Library
Monday	5/14	6:00pm	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Planning Meeting	Library
Thursday	5/17	5:00-7:00pm	McTeacher's Night	Folsom & Manlove
Friday	5/18		Stuffed Animal Spirit Day	
Friday	5/18	2:10-3:10pm	Garden Club for enrolled Students	Library
Saturday	5/19	8:00am-12:00pm	Garden Work Day	School Garden
Wednesday	5/23	6:00pm	Kindergarten APTT Meeting	Room A1
Monday	5/28		No School – Memorial Day	
Tuesday	5/29	6:00pm	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Planning Meeting	Library
Wednesday	5/30	8:45am	Variety Show for Kinder & Primary	MPR
Thursday	5/31		May BoxTops Challenge Ends	Classrooms
Thursday	5/31	8:45am	Variety Show for Intermediate	MPR
Thursday	5/31	5:00pm 6:00pm	<u>Leadership Showcase</u> Variety Show Passport to Leadership	Quad Classrooms
Friday	6/1		Decades Spirit Day	
Friday	6/1	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 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> : 12:05-12:55pm	Quad
Mon-Fri	6/4-6/8		Teacher Request Week	Office
Tuesday	6/5	6:00pm	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Planning Meeting	Library
Thursday	6/7	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	6/8		Hawaiian Spirit Day	
Monday	6/11	8:15-11:00am	Intermediate Play Day	Black Top
Tuesday	6/12	8:15-11:00am	Primary Play Day	Black Top
Tuesday	6/12		Kinder Splash Day	Kinder Yard
Tuesday	6/12	6:00pm	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Cupcake Decorating	MPR
Wednesday	6/13	8:30am	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion Ceremony	Quad
Thursday	6/14		<u>Last Day of School</u> Minimum Day Dismissal – Kind. 11:35am 1 <sup>st</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> 12:10pm and 4 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> 12:19pm	Classroom





## Golden Empire School Site Council Members Needed

Please consider serving or nominating a friend to serve on the 2018—2020 School Site Council.

The School Site Council (SSC) is an advisory committee that reviews and recommends changes to the school plan (this plan defines the academic focus for the school) and develops and approves the school budget in accordance with state and federal laws. Every school that receives Title I monies must have a SSC.

The committee is a collaborative effort between parents, teachers and staff and meets approximately five times a year.

We need parent volunteers to run for a two year term. If you are interested or would like to nominate someone, please fill out the form below. Questions? Contact Dr. Eister, principal, at 916.395.4580.



### GOLDEN EMPIRE'S SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL (SSC) 2018—2020 APPLICATION / NOMINATION FORM

I would like to serve on the Golden Empire School Site Council (SSC) for the 2018—2020 School Years. I understand there is an election process.

I would like to nominate \_\_\_\_\_ to serve on the Golden Empire School Site Council (SSC) for the 2018—2020 School Years.

I have talked with him/her and s/he has agreed to serve.

I have NOT talked with this individual, but believe s/he would serve if asked.

My Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Youngest Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form to your child's teacher by Friday, May 18, 2018.  
Thank you for your help!**