



The Eagle Express

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Golden Empire Elementary School • Sacramento City Unified School District
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Principal's Corner

Happy October! There is excitement in the air as we move towards fall and teachers, students and parents are settling in to this new school year. As your principal, I am committed to fostering a tremendous legacy, tradition and vision of Golden Empire Elementary School. I am thrilled to be part a dynamic staff of dedicated, talented, caring and committed educators and am excited to be working with our wonderful student leaders.

One of Golden Empire's greatest strengths is our powerful family and community support. As parents, guardians and family, you are your child's first and greatest teacher. Together as a loving school community—family and school—working as a mutually trusted and respected team, we exemplify our belief and philosophy that "It takes an entire village to raise and educate a child."

October is usually the month where I share our school academic achievement data/test scores with the Golden Empire community. Back in May, students in grades 3-6 took the CAASPP Test (California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress). The tests focus on critical thinking and problem solving. In English language arts, students show evidence from what they are reading to support their conclusions. In math, students solve real-world problems and explain their thinking. Skills build on each other in successive grades to ensure students are prepared for college and career. The following performance levels are used to measure student achievement: Exceeding Standards, Meeting Standards, Nearly Meeting Standards, and Not Meeting Standards.

While the school data is still trickling in, I do have some basic data to report out. Golden Empire students performing at the exceeding and met achievement levels are higher than the district's average: 44% in ELA and 38% in math. (The District average is 40% in ELA and 32% in math). As we are still awaiting the California Department of Education to release all academic achievement scores, we won't know our district ranking until then. This is very exciting news. It is a testament to Golden Empire's instructional equation: high expectations + excellent instruction + family involvement = increased student achievement!

Your student's scores were mailed out in July. Please review the score sheet. Should you have any questions, talk with your student's teacher or see me. Parent Guides for the CAASPP assessments are available on the district's website by grade span at: <http://www.scusd.edu/california-assessment-student-performance-and-progress-caaspp>. These guides include an overview of testing and sample questions.

It was wonderful seeing so many of our parents and families at the Coffee with the Principal, the Academic Parent Teacher Team meetings, Back to School Night and our recent Chipotle Night—the 1st fundraiser of the year! The teachers appreciate you taking your time to learn more about Golden Empire's homework polices and proper student behavior. Here's to another wonderful school year!

Because of our academic focus, no school-wide Halloween activities are planned at Golden Empire. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Thank you for being a part of the Golden Empire School Family! If I can be of service to you, contact me by email or phone, or just stop by.

~ Dr. Eister, Principal



TO OUR NEW STAFF!

With the start of a new school year, we want to welcome new staff. We welcome our new 4th grade teacher, **Mrs. Beth Conklin**. Mrs. Conklin returns to Golden Empire after teaching a few years at Theodore Judah Elementary. And while not new to Golden Empire (we got her out of retirement!), **Mrs. Renee Mondzak** is our new 1/2 teacher, serving as the substitute teacher until our permanent teacher is hired. **Mrs. Kate Colchico** is our new additional RSP Teacher, working in tandem with Mrs. Moore. **Mrs. Monica Robledo** is the Coordinator of our new after-school program, ASES. And **Mr. Harold Sterba** is our new 4th R Coordinator, replacing Rachel Vaughn. **Mrs. Rachelle Aldama** is our new cafeteria manager, filling in for Ms. Stefanie Gunnels as she recovers from an illness. We welcome these new staff members to Golden Empire!



Free and Reduced Lunch

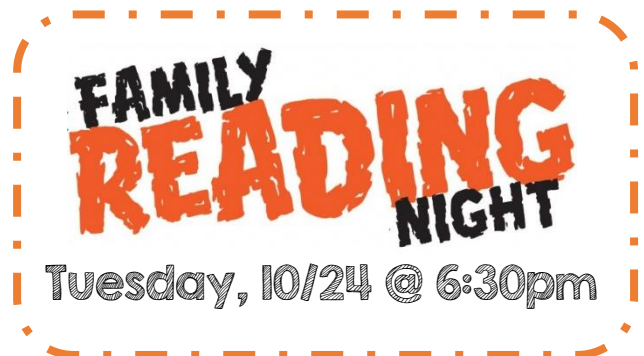
This is a reminder that you need to fill out a new Free/Reduced Lunch Form for your child/children every school year. Without this form, students are charged full price for each lunch—there is no grace period. Even if you do not intend to use this service and you qualify, please take the time to fill out a form and turn it in. As a Title 1 school much of our funding is based on the number of students that qualify for free or reduced lunch, so it is very important to have every eligible family in the system. Also, this year, class size is determined by this percentage rate AND our school will qualify for bonus money if 90% of our families return the form! If you have not yet applied for this year's meals, please pick up an application in the office or you can complete one online at <http://mealapp.scusd.edu/fma/>. The deadline to have these forms turned in is October 8.



It is extremely important that students are at school on time every school day. Our curriculum is challenging, lessons are tightly spaced, and teaching moves very quickly. When students are absent, come to school late, or leave school early, the lessons they miss cannot be made up completely—their education, schoolwork, and test performance reflect the missed learning experience. (And our school funding is based on attendance!)

Please call our 24 hour attendance line at (916) 395-4580 and press 1 to report your student's absence. You may also use our electronic absence form found on our website: goldenempire.scusd.edu. If s/he will be absent for more than a day call the school and have your child's teacher prepare a make-up packet. Please call by 12:00 pm and pick up no later than 3:30 from the school office. If your child will miss more than 1 week, inform us so we can prepare an individual study packet. Otherwise, you could be in jeopardy of your student being labeled as truant.

If you take your child to a medical appointment please be sure to get an office note to excuse his/her absence. You can also fax this note to us at 916.228.5838.



The Leader in Me™

Golden Empire is a Leader in Me School!

Most of you know that Golden Empire is a Leader in Me School. This is our 2nd year of full implementation of the model. What is the Leader in Me? The Leader in Me is a whole-school transformation model and process that empowers students with the leadership and life skills they need to thrive in the 21st century. It is based on timeless principles and practices of personal, interpersonal, and organizational effectiveness. Distinct in several ways, The Leader in Me starts from a powerful premise—every child possesses unique strengths and has the ability to be a leader—which shapes the views of staff to value and develop the whole child. The process integrates leadership development into existing programs, curricula and traditions and serves as a foundational operating system for the school, improving relationships, transforming culture, and highly motivating staff and students. All stakeholders are impacted by The Leader in Me, starting with the staff of a school, then expanding to students, their families, and the community at large. This Inside-Out Approach is a key ingredient to successfully creating positive change in a school.

The Leader in Me utilizes and integrates several leadership, social-emotional learning, quality, and educational models and processes from past and current thought leaders including The 4 Imperatives of Great Leaders and The 4 Disciplines of Execution. The process includes student participation in goal setting, data tracking, leadership roles, Student-Led Conferences, leadership environments, and Leadership Events. The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People is also a key component of the overall Leader in Me process and is a synthesis of universal, timeless principles of personal, interpersonal, and organizational effectiveness such as responsibility, vision, integrity, teamwork, collaboration, and renewal, which are secular in nature and common to all people and cultures.

The Leader in Me includes training on establishing a vision for the school, goal setting, data tracking, and personal-accountability systems and is aligned with best-in-class content and concepts practiced by global education thought leaders. It provides a logical, sequential, and balanced process to help schools proactively design a culture that reflects their vision of their ideal school. This shared leadership increases engagement and enables students, staff, and families to be self-confident and self-reliant, work effectively with others, and make meaningful contributions.

The Leader in Me differs from other whole-school transformation processes in that it offers a holistic, schoolwide experience for staff, students, and parents, and creates a common language and culture within the school. The leadership principles and lessons are not taught as a curriculum, but instead are incorporated into coursework, traditions, systems, and culture.

The Leader in Me helps students develop the skills and self-confidence they need to lead their lives and succeed in school and beyond. Specifically, The Leader in Me focuses on students learning the following 21st century skills:

- Student self-confidence
- Creativity
- Communication
- Leadership
- Self-direction
- Teamwork
- Social etiquette
- Initiative
- Problem solving
- Responsibility

Students learn these skills through participating in goal setting, data tracking, leadership roles, Student-Led Conferences, leadership environments, Leadership Events, and more.



What is a GATE Cluster Model?

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.

Students in our GATE Cluster classrooms learn grade and age level appropriate California State Standards but also receive differentiated instruction within those standards. Like their fellow students, they may be learning about a specific period of time in history or mastering a math concept, but GATE identified students will be learning this concept in a different way or producing a product that is at a different level than that of their peers. Students are regularly encouraged to use their talents to show their understanding in novel ways and using depth and complexity, offer explanations and make out-of-the-box connections, find out about subjects in great detail, explore relationships between concepts using comparing and contrasting, and much more. Students are never asked to "do more" but are rather asked to do "differently" as to challenge them to their maximum extent. To that end, some of the products students have created are debates, musical performances, computer products, videos, newspapers, design (graphic and otherwise), dramatic monologues, oral histories, simulations, and much more. Drop by to visit the intermediate GATE classrooms to learn more!

Help Keep Our Students Safe—Use the Cone Zone!

Have you noticed the orange cones in front of the school? We are working with the District's Safe Schools Office to ensure that all students are safe coming and going from school. The cones are helping to remind drivers to be safe, drive slowly, and remember that they are in a school zone—and a "cone zone."

Student drop-off and pick-up times are very busy. We need your help to ensure that students are safe as they walk to and from school. The Sheriff Department is working with us in making sure our students are safe and that traffic rules and regulations are being followed during these busy times. You may see Sheriffs patrolling in front of the school.

With all of us remembering the following steps, we can ensure our students are safe as they walk to and from school:

- Always drive slowly in front of the school, especially when students are in session.
- Our Crosswalk Attendant and Traffic Greeter are there to keep our students safe and help with the flow of traffic. They are school employees--please be respectful of them!
- Do not make U-turns in front of the school—especially in the crosswalk area.
- Never double park when picking up students. This is very dangerous for children and also blocks the traffic flow.
- The Drop Off/Cone Zone is for dropping off/loading of students only. Please do not park here.
- Always practice safe traffic habits yourself—use the crosswalk instead of jaywalking.

Thank you for your help!

SLOW FOR THE CONE ZONE



5th Grade Teacher Ms. Reynolds Receives Grant Award *35 new laptops for her classroom!*

Ms. Reynolds, one of our amazing Golden Empire teachers, was selected by the Sacramento City Unified School District. Ms. Reynolds was a participant in the district's Summer Math Institute. Ms. Reynolds envisioned, created, and wrote an amazing grant that focuses on math labs for her students and other students across the district--and hopefully right here at Golden Empire. Her grant was the winning entry, thus, a class set/cart of Chrome books were recently delivered to Ms. Reynolds and her students!

Ms. Reynolds was the winner of the grant as she clearly met the grant's criteria:

- A clear description of Golden Empire's culture, teaching and learning goals, and existing technology.
- A vision statement including growth mindset, peer discourse, technology and content development.
- An implementation plan noting collaboration, peer discourse, technology for learning, reflection, and mindset development.
- A lesson designed to support learning with collaboration structures for students to convey mathematical reasoning, rich tasks/questions for student discourse and engagement, and technology used for exploration and as a tool for learning.

This is Ms. Reynolds' 2nd year of teaching and she is already a champion for mathematics learning and technology usage in the classroom. Congratulations, Ms. Reynolds! Our students are so fortunate! We are so proud of you!

Use Our Convenient Drop-Off and Pick-Up Zones!



Don't forget that we have designated "drop-off" and "pick-up" zones. Please drop your students off in the **Drop-Off Zone** located at the east side of the campus, in front of the school playground. Our traffic greeter is there every morning to assist in opening car doors and ensuring students are safe. The **Pick-Up Zone** for use at dismissal time is at the very front of the school, near the Bus Zone. Just pull in so that the teachers on supervision duty can help load your student into your car. This area is NOT for parking; you must stay in your car to help keep traffic flowing smoothly. We appreciate your help!

Help Students Learn Responsibility

In addition to academic standards, our teachers and staff are training Golden Empire students to be responsible for their own school work and belongings. Please support us by letting your child understand the logical consequences of leaving homework or textbooks at school. As you know, our custodial time has been cut severely due to budget constraints. Every interruption jeopardizes our attempts to keep our school campus clean and our community healthy. Please understand our school custodian cannot open classrooms after hours.

October BoxTops Challenge



Now is the time to turn in your
BoxTops for Education!

The last day to submit is 10/31.



Have you been clipping and saving BoxTops for Education? I hope so as it is time for the first BoxTops Challenge of the year. You are being challenged to turn in as many BoxTops as you can by October 31st. The class with the most BoxTops will win a popsicle party in November. BoxTops can be found on hundred of products.

Check out <http://www.boxtops4education.com> for a complete list of products. Be sure to ask your family, friends, and neighbors to clip and save as well. How many will you turn in this month?

Our annual Jog-A-Thon will be held on Friday, October 20th. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and determines the budget for all our events and programs. Start talking to your student about how many laps they will try to run and who they will contact for pledges. The completed pledge forms should be returned to your student's classroom on Monday, October 16th. All pledge money is due November 8th.

Over 200 students and families sponsored the PTO this year during our Sponsorship Drive. Thank you for your support and donations totaling more than \$2000. Each student whose family sponsored the PTO at the VIP level will receive a PTO window decal.

We had a great turnout for Chipotle Night! Thank you to all the families who attended. We earned \$869.75!

Happy Fall,
Crisan Baker, PTO President
goldenempirepto@gmail.com

WE JUST WANT TO SAY... **THANK YOU!**

- To our fabulous PTO for welcoming staff back to school with fun welcome back breakfast!
- To all families who attended the "Coffee with the Principal," Academic Parent Teacher Team Meetings and Back to School Night.
- To our amazing families and staff who attended our Chipotle Night fundraiser!
- To an anonymous donor for contributing \$500 to our school to fund our monthly Family Nights.
- To Pam and Clyde Patterson, a former Golden Empire family, who donated \$500 to our school!
- To our families who provided the needed supplies for our classrooms.
- To all of our classroom helpers. We couldn't do our work without your support!

GOLDEN EMPIRE'S



Take Your Parents 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.

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.

Our next Parent Lunchtime will be Friday, October 6. Parents, please remember to sign-in in the office first. We look forward to seeing you there!

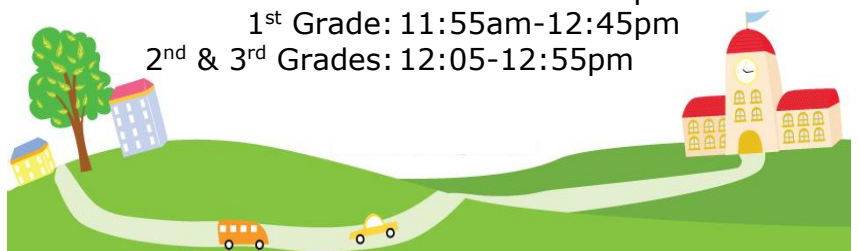
Lunch times are as follows:

5th & 6th Grades: 11:30am-12:10pm

4th Grade: 11:45am-12:25pm

1st Grade: 11:55am-12:45pm

2nd & 3rd Grades: 12:05-12:55pm



Back to School: Avoid Morning Meltdown

Here's How the Whole Family Can Get Organized for the Busy Year Ahead



Getting ready to go back to school is a family affair, requiring everyone to get organized. Here are some tips to help everyone in your household avoid leaving important tasks until the last minute.

- Update school emergency contact and health information for the coming year. Check with your emergency contacts and make sure they are still available for back up. Keep a copy of your finished form to speed up the process next year.

- As you read through all the school information, mark important dates (such as Back-to-School Night, parent-teacher conference week and school holidays) on the family calendar.

- Start a folder for school newsletters and other papers and establish a place where you will keep them so that you can easily find and refer to them if necessary. You might need both a file folder for papers and an electronic one for email communications.

- Establish a "Get Ready the Night Before" policy. Pick clothes for the next day and pack the backpack every evening before bedtime and you'll save precious time in the morning. Leave backpacks and other items you want to take with you by the front door or in an established place so that you won't forget anything in the morning.

Set Priorities and Schedules -

To make the best use of your time and keep life from being harried, think about priorities for family members and then schedule them into the week.

For Parents - Determine how much time you can give to the school each month as a volunteer and involved parent: in the classroom, on field trips, for fundraising events and on school-wide committees.

For the Family - Start a family calendar in a common area where each family member can see it and write down their activities.

For Children - Before school begins, discuss what extracurricular activities your child will participate in. If your child needs a little extra encouragement to join band or to prepare a speech for Student Council Elections, now is the time to go over the benefits of these activities. Some classes fill up quickly, so it's a good idea to sign up early to avoid disappointment. However, if your child needs to have limits set, have her pick her favorite activities and forgo the rest. Be realistic and don't fall victim to over-programming. Make sure to leave enough time to do homework and for family time.

Prepare for the Homework

Ahead - Having set routines and a place to study at home will make it easier for your child to be organized and successful at school.

- Set up a well-lit, quiet place with a good work surface to do homework. Try to keep this place dedicated to homework and free of other clutter.

- Establish a regular homework time. This will help your student to complete assignments on time.

- Discourage distractions such as television, video games, and the Internet or phone conversations during homework time.

Friday, October 20, 2017

jog-a-Thon

This "FUN"draiser raises money to support school programs like band and assemblies, as well as provide classroom and teaching supplies, brag tags, field trips and much more!

There are many incentives for our students to participate. Students can earn prize packs based on the amount of pledge money collected, top lap runners with at least \$1 in pledges collected are entered into a drawing for new running shoes, and the top three pledge earning classes (K, 1-3, 4-6) earn a pizza party.

Questions?? Please email Sarah Remis at adoremis@yahoo.com or call (916) 995-1271





October and November Calendar of Events

Day	Date	Time	Event / Activity	Location
Monday	10/2		October BoxTops Challenge begins	Classrooms
Tuesday	10/3	6:30-7:30pm	The Leader in Me Parent Information Night	MPR
Friday	10/6	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 2 nd & 3 rd : 12:05-12:55pm	Grass Quad
Friday	10/6	5:00-8:00pm	Bucks from Trucks Fundraiser at Food Truck Mania	Rosemont Community Park
Monday	10/9	2:30pm	PTO Meeting	Library
Wednesday	10/11	6:00-7:00pm	6 th Grade Sly Park Meeting	MPR
Friday	10/13	3:00pm	RHS Homecoming Parade (must have an adult chaperone and permission slip to walk in parade)	Meet in front of school
Monday	10/16		Jog-A-Thon Pledge Forms due	Classrooms
Friday	10/20		Progress notes go home	Classrooms
Friday	10/20		Jog-A-Thon	Playground
Friday	10/20	2:15-3:15pm	Garden Club for enrolled students	Library
Mon-Fri	10/22-27		Red Ribbon Week	
Tuesday	10/24	6:30-8:00pm	Family Reading Night	MPR
Tuesday	10/31		October BoxTops Challenge ends	Classrooms
Thursday	11/2	5:00-7:30pm	Fall Scholastic Book Fair	MPR
Friday	11/3	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 2 nd & 3 rd : 12:05-12:55pm	Grass Quad
Monday	11/6		Fall Picture Retake Day	
Tuesday	11/7	9:00am	Student Council Election (Grades 4-6)	MPR
Wednesday	11/8		Jog-A-Thon pledge money is due	Classrooms
Friday	11/10		No School – Veterans Day Holiday	
Monday	11/13	6:00pm	PTO Meeting	Library
Wednesday	11/15	6:30-8:00pm	Family Math Night	MPR
Friday	11/17		Jog-A-Thon Prize Delivery Day	Classrooms
Friday	11/17	2:15-3:15pm	Garden Club for enrolled students	Library
Mon-Fri	11/20-24		No School - Thanksgiving Break	
Monday	11/27	8:00am	School Resumes	
Monday	11/27		Jog-A-Thon Game Truck Day	In front of school
Thurs-Fri Mon-Fri	11/30-12/8		Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences Minimum Day Dismissal – Kind. 11:35am 1 st -3 rd 12:10pm and 4 th -6 th 12:19pm	Classroom