



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 into 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 test focuses 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: 47% in ELA and 44% in math. (The District average is 39% 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 Ice Cream Social, Coffee with the Principal, the Academic Parent Teacher Team meetings,

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and Back to School Night! The teachers appreciate you taking your time to learn more about Golden Empire's homework policies 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. Irene Eister, Principal



With the start of a new school year, we want to welcome new staff. We welcome our new 2nd grade teacher, **Mrs. Theresa Molyneux**. Mrs. Molyneux joins us from her last position at Oakridge Elementary. **Ms. Anita Carapiet** is our new computer teacher, coming from Elder Creek Elementary. And **Mr. Dale Lovrin** is our new library technician, replacing Mrs. Perry who retired. We welcome these new staff members to Golden Empire!



**School Meals
are Free for
All!**

Have you heard the news!? All Golden Empire students may eat breakfast and lunch, free of charge! Thanks to a federal grant issued to the school district, Golden Empire is one of the 30 schools that will receive this opportunity for all students to eat free of charge. Enjoy!

attendance ~~MATTERS~~

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 Option #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.



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 26, 2018

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.





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!

SLOW FOR THE CONE ZONE

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!



of Student Pick Up Times

Students must be picked up between 2:07 and 2:15 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, and between 1:07 and 1:15 p.m. on Thursdays. After-school supervision is provided only during these times. Please make sure that your child is picked up from school by these times each day unless your child rides the bus or attends an after-school program. Students still at school after the times listed above will be brought to the office to call home for pick up, and you or another person you have authorized will need to come into the school office to pick them up. The office staff IS NOT available to supervise children after 2:15 or 1:15 on Thursdays. Thank you for your attention to this schedule to help ensure your child is safe and supervised at all times.

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!



RESPONSIBILITY

starts with *me.*

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.

Messages for Students



Please ensure your child(ren) knows what s/he will be expected to do when the school day is over before they leave home in the morning. Staff is not available to deliver messages throughout the day. When the bell rings at the end of the school day it is difficult to reach individual children for which we have taken messages. It is also very disruptive to the teachers and students when phone calls are made to the class at the end of the day. We will be happy to deliver messages in an EMERGENCY situation.

October BoxTops Challenge



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

The last day to submit is 10/31.

Helping With Big Homework Projects

Know When to Step In and When to Back Off

Adapted from Scholastic Magazine

The contest to create the best visual often prompts many parents to get overly involved in their kids' school projects. But teachers say that by doing so, parents are missing the big picture. The ultimate goal isn't how beautiful the project is; it's the lesson the kids ultimately learn about taking the necessary steps — from research to presentation — to reach the end result.

The Parent's Job

Parents play an important role in that process. One way parents can achieve that goal is by coaching their child through the steps of a project from start to finish. Here's some thoughtful advice on how to help your child do her best:

- Ask questions. Questioning helps your child define the assignment. Is this historical figure's early life important? Does it make him who he became? What are the five most important events in this time period? What was the turning point in the war? Why would you recommend this book? What character made the most powerful impact?
- Get out the calendar. Help your child set goals and create deadlines. For example, by the end of a certain week, complete all your research. Then create a timeline the following week.
- Narrow his focus. Many kids bite off more than they can chew. Suggest that your child spend the first few days absorbing information and reading about his subject before figuring out what the important elements are.
- Designate a work space. It might be a spot near the computer or a place she can leave out her books or the work in progress. Having a designated space eliminates the need to gather together materials. It also serves as a constant reminder that the work has to get done.
- Do the tedious work. If typing is frustrating your child, it's okay to do it for him. Just don't work on the project without him.
- After the project's done, discuss the process. Talk about whether you had enough time and what you would do differently in the future.



Stay Connected!

We Need Your Email & Telephone Numbers!

Did you know that the school sends out a weekly email message with the week's school events? If you are not receiving these emails, we do not have your current email address. Also, CALIFORNIA EDUCATION CODE 49408 states "For the protection of a pupil's health and welfare, the governing board of a school district will require the parent or legal guardian of a pupil to keep current at the pupil's school of attendance, emergency information including the home address and telephone number, and business address and telephone number of the parents or guardian, and the name, address and telephone number of a relative or friend who is authorized to care for the pupil in any emergency situation if the parent or legal guardian cannot be reached."

Golden Empire requires parents/guardians to update students' emergency cards when there is a change of email, telephone numbers or address. When the school sends out Infinite Campus messages or emergency alerts to all parents, the messages are sent to the phone numbers you provide us on the emergency card. Messages are undeliverable to "bad numbers" or email addresses.



Over 200 students and families sponsored the PTO this year during our Sponsorship Drive. Thank you for your support and donations totaling more than \$2,900! Each student whose family sponsored the PTO at the VIP level will receive a PTO window decal. Also, thank you to our families for donating all of the yummy treats for our Back To School Night Bake Sale. We earned \$363!

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. Be sure to watch the bulletin board in the quad to see which class will win! 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?

We look forward to seeing you out at the Bucks for Trucks Dine Out Night on Friday, October 5th from 5pm to 8pm at the Rosemont Food Truck Mania Event. Come enjoy a fun evening with family, friends and community. 10% of the proceeds from your purchase will be donated back to PTO!

Our annual Jog-A-Thon will be held on Friday, October 26th. 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.

Happy Fall!

Robin Wilson, PTO President
goldenempirepto@gmail.com

Celebrating in



In an effort to nurture healthy food choices, as well protecting an increasing number of students with food allergies and other medical conditions, we are implementing the District's new Wellness Policy, including new practices for birthday celebrations. Please do not send homemade edible treats to school for students. Edible treats must be store-bought and be in a container with easy to see ingredient lists. Be creative in these edible ideas: try some healthier alternatives such as fruits and veggies, granola bars (with no nuts), yogurt, Chex Mix, fruit popsicles, fruit roll-ups, etc. Please do not bring store bought cupcakes! Even better, bring a non-food item for the classroom if you wish to celebrate a birthday. Consider a book donation to your child's classroom, stickers, erasers, fun pencils/pens, etc. Many families do not want their children eating sugary treats at school. We appreciate your partnership as we implement these new district practices.



- To our fabulous PTO for welcoming staff back to school with fun welcome back treats!
- To all families who attended the "Coffee With the Principal," Academic Parent Teacher Team Meetings and Back to School Night.
- 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!

October and November Calendar of Events

Day	Date	Time	Event / Activity	Location
Monday	10/8		Kids Can! Food Drive Begins	Classrooms
Monday	10/8	2:30pm	PTO Meeting	Library
Wednesday	10/10	4:45pm	Football Game AM Winn vs. GE	Isador Cohen
Friday	10/12	2:15-3:15pm	Garden Club for enrolled students	Library/Garden
Saturday	10/13	8:00am-12:00pm	Garden Work Day	Garden
Wednesday	10/17	2:02pm	Kona Ice Fundraiser	In Front of School
Wednesday	10/17	3:45pm	Football Game Sequoia vs. GE	Isador Cohen
Friday	10/19		Progress Notes go home	Classrooms
Friday	10/19	3:00pm	RHS Homecoming Parade <small>(must have an adult chaperone and permission slip to walk in parade)</small>	Meet in front of school
Mon-Fri	10/22-26		Red Ribbon Week	
Tuesday	10/23	6:30-8:00pm	Family Reading Night	MPR
Wednesday	10/24	4:45pm	Football Game GE vs. Isador Cohen	Isador Cohen
Thursday	10/25		Jog-A-Thon Pledge Forms due	Classrooms
Friday	10/26		Jog-A-Thon	Blacktop
Wednesday	10/31		Last day of October BoxTops Challenge	Classrooms
Wednesday	10/31	2:02pm	Kona Ice Fundraiser	In Front of School
Wednesday	10/31	3:45pm	Football Game Erlewine vs. GE	Isador Cohen
Thursday	11/1	5:00-7:30pm	Fall Scholastic Book Fair	MPR
Friday	11/2		Last Day of Kids Can! Food Drive	Classrooms
Monday	11/5		Fall Picture Re-take Day	
Tuesday	11/6	9:00am	Student Leadership Elections <small>(Grades 4-6)</small>	MPR
Tuesday	11/6	3:45pm	Football Game GE vs. Abe Lincoln	Isador Cohen
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 Kindergarten: After 12:00pm dismissal 2 nd & 3 rd : 12:05-12:55pm	Grass Quad
Saturday	11/10	4:00-8:00pm	Chipotle Fundraiser	Loehmann's Plaza
Monday	11/12		No School – Veterans Day Holiday	
Tuesday	11/13	6:00pm	PTO Meeting	Library
Wednesday	11/14	3:45pm	Football Game Bancroft vs. GE	Isador Cohen
Wednesday	11/14	6:30-8:00pm	Family Math Night	MPR
Mon-Fri	11/19-23		No School - Thanksgiving Break	
Monday	11/26	8:00am	School Resumes	
Monday	11/27	8:00am	School Resumes	
Wednesday	11/28	3:45pm	Football Game Marshall vs. GE	Isador Cohen
Thurs-Fri Mon-Fri	11/29-12/7		Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences Minimum Day Dismissal – Kind. 11:35am 1 st -3 rd 12:10pm and 4 th -6 th 12:19pm	Classroom
Friday	11/30		Last Day of the 1 st Trimester	

