



THE EAGLE EXPRESS



Golden Empire Elementary School ★ 9045 Canberra Drive ★ Sacramento ★ 916.228.5890

Sacramento City Unified School District

www.goldenempire.scusd.edu

Volume 12, Issue 2 ★ November 2015

Soaring To New Heights, Together!

Principal's Corner



It's already November and we have had a terrific start for the school year! Staff, parents, students and community members have all worked hard to hit the ground running. In the classroom, our students at each grade level are immersed in the Common Core standards, working with engaging new curriculum in math and language arts. Hopefully, at Back-to-School-Night and if you are volunteering in the classroom, you are catching a glimpse of the work being done in your student's class. You will learn even more about the students' work with the Common Core Standards at your Parent-Teacher-Student conference as you see the new district report card.

The end of this month your child will bring home a letter from their teacher to schedule the parent/teacher/student conference. Conferences and shortened days begin Thursday, December 3 and conclude on December 11. Conferences are a wonderful opportunity for the teacher and family to discuss their observations of the child. They provide an opportunity for parents and teachers to discuss the unique development of each child and the ways that both home and school interactions can assist in each child's academic and social growth. Be sure to schedule a time to meet with your child's teacher. And don't forget, the student is expected to attend the conference, too. Please make every effort to schedule and attend your conference, as this is an important means of staying informed about your child's progress in school. Golden Empire maintains high expectations concerning conferences—I require every teacher to conference with every family in order to maintain a 100% family conference rate. We are the best in the district!

Golden Empire excels at using student data to determine teacher instruction. Your child's teacher will share the following test data at the parent/teacher/student conference:

- Reading assessment scores
- Math assessment scores
- Common Core Standards progress
- Student behavior/citizenship

Parents and guardians are so important to helping each child succeed in school. This goes for our volunteers, as well! Golden Empire would not be as successful if it were not for all of the fabulous volunteers we have at our school. Many of you are familiar with the volunteer registration process that the District has implemented. If you are planning on chaperoning for a field trip or working at school, you must complete a background check and show proof of a negative TB test. The process is free; forms are in the office.

The Golden Empire staff wish you and your family a very happy, healthy and bountiful Thanksgiving!

~ Dr. Eister, Principal

What's Inside?

Attendance Mattersp.5	Eagle Spirit Wear.....p.4	October Challenge Winner.....p.2
Band.....p.2	Hand-Made Holiday Night.....p.4	PTO News.....p.5
Benchmark Assessments.....p.3	Homecoming Parade.....p.2	Red Ribbon Week.....p.4
Brag Tags.....p.2	Jog-A-Thon Results.....p.3	SSC and ELAC Members.....p.3
Calendar of Events.....p.6	Kids Can!.....p.5	Thank You.....p.4
Campus Sheriff.....p.3	Medication on Campus.....p.4	Visitors.....p.5

Our Band is Making Beautiful Music!



Do you have a student in grades 4-6 and is interested in learning how to play a musical instrument? Then Golden Empire's Band is for them! Thanks to the generosity of the PTO, our band will

again strike up some notes. Students will benefit from learning from Miss Mickaela Rayray, a music teacher who also teaches at Rosemont High School and in the San Juan Unified School District. The music program is free, but parents are responsible for providing the student's instrument (flute, clarinet, or trumpet). Join us for a Band Parent Information Night on November 5 @ 6 pm. Please bring \$5 to the meeting to purchase a recorder, which is required. Students will first learn music fundamentals on the recorder before transitioning to a traditional band instrument (flute, clarinet, and trumpet). Call or stop by the school office for more information.



Golden Empire AGAIN Wins Most Spirited Award at Rosemont Homecoming Parade

Golden Empire Elementary once again made their presence known at the 7th Annual Rosemont Parade on October 23. The parade has become an annual event on the afternoon of Rosemont High School's Homecoming football game. Among the elementary schools in the parade, Golden Empire had the most participants. And with their noisemakers, minions and spirited outfits, they earned "The Most Spirited Award." Through cheers and waves, the students were well received by community members who lined Kiefer Boulevard showing their support. The long walk from Golden Empire to Rosemont High was nothing compared to the sense of pride that all the participants experienced. Great job, Golden Eagles!

What are Brag Tags?



Have you seen your student's new Brag Tags? Brag Tags are sponsored by Golden Empire's PTO. Brag Tags are plastic laminated tags used to motivate and reward students. Kids love to collect them and display on a lanyard, chain necklace, or on their backpack. These fun, durable tags come in a huge assortment of colorful designs and in a wide range of themes. Every student will receive brag tags throughout the year for accomplishing something special, such as being the Student of the Week, having excellent attendance, having excellent behavior, etc. All students received a school spirit brag tag back in September. Students can collect as many brag tags as possible. Some teachers even have their very own Brag Tags so students can collect tags that are specific to their own grade level. Students can keep these on their backpacks or keep them at home—whatever they choose. We do recommend that the students write their names on the back of the tags with a permanent marker. Should students lose their tags, the original Spirit Tag and chain is available for purchase in the school office for \$1. Keep collecting your Brag Tags!

CONGRATULATIONS

to Ms. Conway's 3rd Graders on winning the October Challenge with 985 Labels and Boxtops!



As a school we collected 7,939 Labels and Boxtops!

What are Benchmarks?

Three times this year, your second—sixth grade student will participate in Benchmark Assessments. “Benchmarks” are assessments that serve many functions. The benchmarks are created to mimic the new CAASPP Common Core Standards tests that students take in April and May. The students take the benchmarks on the computer so that it is good practice for the CAASPP Test. The Benchmarks test students on concepts they have been exposed to during the trimester. The results allow teachers and students to see how well students are doing in mastering the concepts before they are assessed on the “Big Test” in April and May. This also allows teachers to see what areas students still need to focus on or what skills need to be re-taught so students can reach mastery of the concepts. Your student will take the Benchmarks in November, January and March. As with any assessment, encourage your student to do his or her best and to “show off” all that they know.

Welcome SSC and ELAC Members!



We welcome our new School Site Council (SSC) and English Learner Advisory Council (ELAC) representatives. Parents on both committees work with us to write our school plan, organize parent education opportunities and budget our resources to best meet the needs of our students. Thank you all for your support and assistance!

SSC Members

Brandon Barnum
Tucker Dowd
Jeanette Dubesa
Rachelle Esquivel
Jami Ferguson

ELAC Members

Susan Balbuena
Maricela Conteras-Alvarez
Salvador Lopez
Rocio Mercado
Maria Salinas
Vitalina Tufi

Have You Met Our Officer?

Golden Empire and the other Rosemont Schools are fortunate to have Officer Jeff Kennedy assigned to our campus. Officer Kennedy is a spokesperson for the Sacramento Sherriff Department. While he is an actual officer, his main task is to represent the Sheriff's Department in a positive manner. Officer Kennedy will be on our campus often, helping with traffic and ensuring student safety, visiting with the students, checking on students' behavior, and speaking to the students in their classrooms. Officer Kennedy will also assist us with traffic-related problems before and after school to ensure student safety. Give him a wave next time you see him on our campus!



The 7th annual Jog-A-Thon “fun”draiser was a success!

- 565 students ran 10,980 laps •
- 280 students turned in pledge cards •
- \$16,081.07 was pledged •



If you have not yet submitted all of your Jog-A-Thon donations, please send them to school with your student or drop them off at the school office.



Thank you to Jenn Wilson: PTO Special Events Coordinator, Joan Orr: Jog-A-Thon Record Keeper, and their team of volunteers for hosting a spectacular event.

Golden Empire Celebrates Red Ribbon Week



Red Ribbon Week is an ideal way for students and communities to unite and take a visible stand against substance abuse. Each year, most schools spend some time focusing on the importance of

being and staying healthy, making good choices, being strong in character, and the importance of saying no to substance abuse. The Red Ribbon Campaign started in 1985 when drug traffickers in Mexico City were gaining on DEA agents. This began the continuing tradition of displaying Red Ribbons as a symbol of intolerance towards the use of drugs.

Along with the fun activities, Spirit Days and raffles held during the week, Golden Empire students were treated to a great assembly featuring a River Cats spokesperson and Dinger. The spokesperson shared with the students the importance of good character, attitude, staying healthy and making positive choices. Everyone was so surprised when Dinger ran into the multi-purpose room, pepping up the assembly! It was a great time!



Medication on Campus



If your child needs to take over the counter medication or a prescription, a medication from filled out by the doctor and parent must be completed. This form is available in the school office. All medication must be in the container in which it was purchased. This includes cough drops, ibuprofen, and cold medication. It must be delivered straight to the office and given to office staff. The medical staff may fax the form to the school at 916.228.5838.



- To all participants who took part in the 7th Annual Rosemont Community Parade. We had a great time, thanks to your efforts!
- To all families who attended our Scholastic Book Fair. Your purchases helped our school buy many new books for our library!
- To all of the volunteers who helped with the Jog-A-Thon! We were successful because of you and your help!
- To all of our classroom helpers. We couldn't do our work without your support!

Show Your Golden Eagle Spirit and Pride!

Each Friday is Eagle Spirit and Pride Day. To show your Eagle Pride, simply wear blue or yellow/gold or your Golden Empire shirt on Friday! If you would like to purchase Eagle Wear, order forms are available in the school office. In-stock items will be sent home with your child within 2 days; items needing to be ordered may take a few weeks for delivery. Questions about Eagle Wear? Please contact Keri Creeger @ 228.5890. GO EAGLES!!

❄️ SAVE THE DATE ❄️

**HAND-MADE
HOLIDAY
NIGHT**



**Monday, December 7th
6:00-8:00pm**

**Presented by the Golden
Empire PTO**

Collect Those Cans & Food Items

Goal is to Collect 2,000 Items



The KCRA 3 Kids Can Food Drive has been helping to feed hungry families in our community for more than 20 years. October 12 – November 13 Golden Empire students will collect canned and non-perishable food items to benefit the Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services. Each classroom will have their own box to put all of the items in. Last year our families collected 1,538 cans or non-perishable food items for the **Kids Can!** campaign. This year's goal is to collect 2,000 items! The classes who bring in the most items will win an ice cream party. Kids Can!

Remember to Sign-In When Entering the Instructional Area

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



Last month the PTO challenged you to collect as many BoxTops for Education and Labels for Education as possible. And you did! 7,939 BoxTops and Labels were turned in. Congratulations to Ms. Conway's 3rd Graders for winning the Playground Party by collecting 985 BoxTops and Labels. The next Challenge will take place in January.

I would like to thank Jenn Wilson and Joan Orr for putting together a very successful Jog-A-Thon last month. Their ability to coordinate class schedules, volunteers, prizes, and tabulate earnings is what makes this event so successful and allows the PTO to fund several programs for our students and teachers. Thank you!

Next month the PTO will be hosting a "Hand-Made Holiday" Night on Monday, December 7th from 6:00-8:00pm. This event will allow your student to create up to four handmade gifts for family and friends as well as enjoy some hot chocolate and treats. Tickets will be available soon.

I hope this Thanksgiving finds you with plenty of reasons to give thanks.

-Alison Milobar, PTO President - geptopresident@yahoo.com



Every Day 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 228-5718 to report your student's absence. You may also use our electronic absence form found on our website: golenempire.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 228-5838.



November and December Calendar of Events

Day	Date	Time	Event / Activity	Location
Tuesday	11/3	9:00am	Student Council Elections	
Friday	11/6	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
Monday	11/9	6:00pm	PTO Meeting	Library
Tuesday	11/10		Fall Picture Retake Day	
Wednesday	11/11		No School – Veterans Day Holiday	
Friday	11/13		Hearing & Vision Testing Follow Up	
Friday	11/13		Last Day of Kids Can! Food Drive	Classroom
Friday	11/13	2:00-3:00pm	Garden Club (3 rd -6 th Grade)	Library
Wednesday	11/18	6:30-8:00pm	Family Math Night	Cafeteria
Mon-Fri	11/23-27		No School – Thanksgiving Break	
Monday	11/30	8:00am	School Resumes	
Thurs-Fri Mon-Fri	12/3-11		Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences Minimum Day Dismissal – Kind. 11:20am 1 st -3 rd 12:05pm and 4 th -6 th 12:11pm	Classroom
Monday	12/7	6:00-8:00pm	Hand-Made Holiday Night	Cafeteria
Friday	12/11	8:15am 9:10am 10:15am	3 rd & 4 th - Trimester Awards Assembly 5 th & 6 th - Trimester Awards Assembly 1 st & 2 nd - Trimester Awards Assembly	Cafeteria
Mon-Tues	12/14-15	All Day	Puberty Education Parent Review	Nurse's Office
Wednesday	12/16		5 th Grade Puberty Education	Classroom
Thursday	12/17		6 th Grade Puberty Education	Classroom
Thursday	12/17		1 st Trimester No Citation Assemblies	Cafeteria
Mon-Fri	12/21-1/1		Winter Break	
Monday	1/4/16	8:00am	School Resumes	Classroom

