



THE EAGLE EXPRESS



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

Sacramento City Unified School District

www.goldenempire.scusd.edu

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Soaring To New Heights, Together!

Principal's Corner



Where has this year gone? As we wrap up 2015, we also wrap up the 1st trimester of school—with parent/teacher/student conferences beginning on Thursday, December 3 and concluding on Friday, December 11. We will be on shortened day schedule during these 7 days of conferences. I want to thank all families for making this commitment to come to school, meet with the teacher and your child(ren) to learn more about his/her progress.

These conferences are especially important as the District unveils the modified Common Core Standards report card. The teachers will share the improved report card with you and your student(s) and explain the markings. In summary, the report card shows numerical grades: 1 = Minimal progress; 2 = Approaching standard; 3 = Meets or mastered standard; 4 = Exceeds grade level standards. These numerical grades are issued for each major area in language arts, math, science, social studies and physical education. While a teacher may score a test using percentages, we translate those scores into the 1–4 grade for report cards. At Golden Empire, we also have a technology grade for computer class. In addition to the numerical grades, a teacher may have letter scores for subsets of each major grade. These are: O = Outstanding; S = Satisfactory; P = Progressing; N = Needs improvement; NA = Not Applicable or not taught yet. There may be areas on the report card without marks or that have been left blank. The blank cells are areas that have not yet been taught in the curriculum. As the content is taught, these cells will be filled with a numerical or letter mark. The presence of the blank does not factor into your child's overall mark—it is just to inform you that some content will be taught later.

December 11th is our 1st Trimester Awards Ceremony. Teachers will honor students who have 100% attendance, excellent academics, improved academic growth, and good citizenship. I am always thrilled to give out these special awards—and Brag Tags—to many students! Additionally, to further recognize our students showing academic progress, 6th grade students who scored advanced or proficient on their CST Science Test they took last May will receive a medal. Students will bring home a parent invitation if they will receive a medal at the Awards Ceremony. We are proud of our students and want to recognize them for all of their efforts and continued hard work.

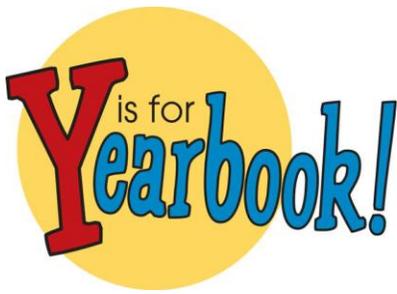
Students will have a great time at our “No Citation Assembly,” to be held on December 17. Students who did not receive a citation this past trimester will be rewarded with a treat and a special assembly. We appreciate the students' great behavior and citizenship!

As this holiday season is a time for gratitude and goodwill, I want to thank you for your hard work and dedication in helping to get our students to school safely and on time, in helping with homework, for encouraging them, being positive role models, and for your continued support. It all makes a difference to each and every child. All of us at Golden Empire wish you and your family good cheer, good health and a prosperous new year!

~ Dr. Eister, Principal

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The 2015-2016 Yearbook Cover Contest was a success! Thank you to the 32 students who submitted their original artwork entries. The PTO Board Members reviewed the submissions and determined the following:

-5th grader Addisyn Barnum's cover was selected as the winning entry. Her artwork will be featured on the front cover of the yearbook and she has won a free yearbook. Congratulations Addisyn!

-Students Makoto Vilimek (6th grade), Josiah Dawson (5th grade), Vanessa Escamilla (5th grade), and Numaan Formoli (6th grade) each won honorable mention. Their artwork will be featured on the back cover of the yearbook. They each will receive a certificate for \$5.00 off the price of a yearbook. Congratulations students!

We also have some exciting news! The 2015-2016 Yearbook Club has been formed and will begin their work in December. Yearbook members are: Yelena Gryaznov, Miguel Esquivel, Nancy Banh, Isabel Mercado-Novoa, Maya Lacy, Arlette Rodriguez, Numaan Formoli, Vanessa Escamilla, An Chuong, Josiah Dawson, Addisyn Barnum, and Lakayla Brown. Look for Yearbook Club members at school activities and campus taking photos and conducting interviews. They'll have either lanyards or yearbook shirts on.

And, it is not too early to purchase your yearbook. Early Eagle Yearbook Online Sales have begun! We are now accepting credit card orders online. Simply go to <http://schoolannual.com/purchase/>, enter our school name in the search bar, click on the 2016 Yearbook link/photo, select yearbook to make your purchase, and check out.

Should you have any yearbook questions, email goldenempireyearbook@yahoo.com

Don't miss out on the memories! Order your yearbook today!

Amanda Barnum, Golden Empire Yearbook Editor
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These Kids Have Green Thumbs!

Under the direction of teachers Mr. Gardner, Mr. Sndier, Ms. Engstrom, and Mr. Mitchell, Golden Empire's Garden Club is in full bloom! Almost 50 students gather once a month to learn about gardening and apply their new skills in our school garden. Educational research shows that school gardens are valuable educational tools. Just by planning and planting, students learn about what a plant needs to grow and from where food comes. A school garden provides built-in nutrition education. Students can enjoy fruits and vegetables that they grow and harvest for a healthy afternoon snack, and the garden can provide hands-on education about the food groups. Already this year students participated in fertilizing, tilling and planting the raised beds with winter crops such as spinach, lettuce, kale, and potatoes. At the last meeting, students harvested leafy greens, made a dressing, and enjoyed their homegrown salads. Delicious! In future meetings, Garden Club students will learn about composting, pollination, soil types, and maintaining a garden. As the students watch the fruits of their labor grow, they will have the opportunity to participate in teamwork, cooperation, and develop a life-long respect for the environment. Our Garden Club grows environmental leaders!

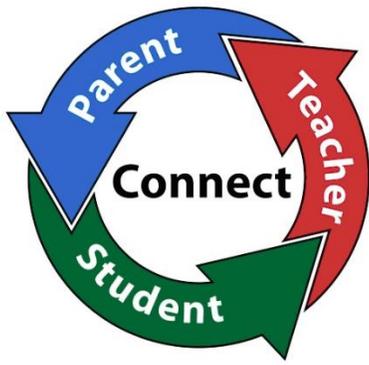


Shortened Day Schedule for Parent - Teacher Student Conferences

December 3rd – December 11th

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Dismissal Time</u>
Kindergarten	11:20am
1 st -3 rd Grades	12:05pm
4 th -6 th Grades	12:11pm

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



It's Time for

Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences!

This is an important time for you to discuss your child's progress in school. Often, busy schedules limit the time that parents and teachers can share information, so making the most of opportunities, such as conferences, becomes even more important. Below is some information that will help you in preparing for your parent-teacher-student conference. Parents do not need to sign in at the office during non-instruction time.

Preparing for the Conference:

- Talk with your child before the conference. Find out what they think are their best and worst subjects. Why? Ask your child if there is anything they would like you to talk about with their teacher.
- Make sure your child does not worry about the meeting. Help them understand that the meeting is designed to help them do better in school. And remember, they need to be at the conference, too!
- Write notes before you go to remind yourself of what you want to talk about.
- If possible, have all parents attend. Each parent usually has a different take on the child and allows for you to hear the information at the same time.
- Arrange for a babysitter for small children.
- Your student should attend the conference.

During the Conference:

- What are my child's strengths?
- What learning goals have you set with my child?
- Does my child seem happy at school?
- Are there any areas where my child needs help or extra motivation? How can I assist in those areas?
- How does my child react to trying new things?
- How does s/he react to making mistakes?
- How does my child interact with other children and adults? Are there behavior issues?
- Can my child work independently?
- Does my child complete work on time?
- What can I do to help?

Other Tips:

- Ask your most important questions first, just in case time is running short.
- Ask for clarification. Education has its own lingo; if you do not understand something, ask for an explanation.

Meeting with your child's teacher will build strong parent-teacher partnerships. We must work as partners to reach our common goal of helping your child receive the best education!



Join us for a fun night of gift-making, holiday treats and socializing! The kids will get an opportunity to make gifts for the holidays and enjoy a tasty treat; while the parents can socialize and relax in the library.

When: Monday, December 7, 2015 from 6:00-8:00pm

Where: Golden Empire Cafeteria

Cost: \$7.00 per student (order tickets by Thursday 12/3)

Ticket includes the supplies and assistance to create up to 4 craft/gift projects, 1 snack and beverage, and gift wrap station for completed gifts. This event is for Golden Empire students (K-6).

No at-the-door registration be will allowed.



GE Students Vote for Their New Student Council

November 3, 2015—Election Day—was very special at Golden Empire. Intermediate students participated in their own Election Day activities, voting for Golden Empire's 2015-2016 Student Council Officers. The Election Day activities were coordinated and facilitated by our Student Council Coordinators, teachers Mr. DaCastello and Mrs. Johnson. Fourteen 4th—6th grade candidates campaigned the first week of November, explaining to their peers how they would use their elected positions to help provide leadership and serving as representatives for the student body in presenting ideas to the principal and the PTO. On November 3, the candidates delivered excellent and compelling speeches during the Student Council Officer Assembly—speaking in front of 300 students and staff. These were some of the best speeches we have ever had during our student council elections. Following the assembly, all intermediate students marked their paper ballots to elect a Student Council comprised of 4 offices: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Congratulations to our 2015-2016 Student Council Officers:

President: Xandra Stillely
Vice-President: Yuliana Khoronzhak
Secretary: Vanessa Escamilla
Treasurer: Mitchell Milobar



Classroom Representatives:

Mrs. Johnson: Jerimiah Dawson & Jayden Reed
Ms. Macey: Michaella Sacapanio & Manny Uppal
Mr. Snider: Justin Insixiengmay & Jasdeep Uppal
Mr. DaCastello: Tyren Caitano & Monet Joyner
Mr. Bergeron: Kean Barredo & Nexalize Esquilin
Ms. Hutchins: Natalie Tran & Christopher Vegafria
Ms. Engstrom: Juliana Jeffrey & Ethan Orr
Ms. Hogg-Wood: Olivia Howard & Kya Young
Miss Sunahara: Sean Aflaki & Daeja Scott

Come to Our Awards Assemblies!

Our Awards Assemblies will take place on December 11th. Everyone is welcome to attend to see some of our students receive awards, their new brag tags, and celebrate their successes. The times are as follows:

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

CONGRATULATIONS

School Arrival Time



A reminder: students are not permitted on campus before 7:30 AM. We worry about our students arriving to school too early as there is no supervision for them on campus. At 7:30 AM, students go to the cafeteria for supervision and/or to eat breakfast. Consider the 4th R Program or other daycare options should you need to drop your child off at school prior to 7:30 AM. Please don't risk your child's safety or place the school in a precarious situation.

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

- To our 30 parents, grandmas, grandpas, uncles, aunts and friends for volunteering for our 7th Annual Jog-A-Thon! We raised almost \$16,000.00 for our school!
- To the Diamond Family who donated some musical instruments to our band. We are thankful!
- To Paula Swanson for updating our Excellent Eagle Effort board!
- 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. GO EAGLES!!

Medications in School

The District and Golden Empire Staff recognize that students may have special medical needs. The Education Code (49407) outlines conditions for administering medications at school during the time the student is under the supervision of school personnel. Medication prescribed may be administered during the school day by designated school personnel. Medications, both prescription and over-the-counter, can only be given if there are written instructions from a health care provider and written permission from the parent/guardian. Upon request, a form will be provided to the parent for completion by the attending doctor and parent. Written instructions must be renewed at the start of each school year.

All prescription medications must:

- Be brought to school by the parent.
- Come in the original container with the prescription label attached.

Asthma

If your child requires use of an inhaler at school, whether it is used for emergencies or on a daily basis, it must be left in the office. This allows school personnel to monitor and supervise all inhaler treatments and prevents the transporting of medication on the school bus or use in the classroom HOWEVER, if your doctor states that your child may keep the inhaler on his/her person, then we will accommodate this request. All inhalers require a medical authorization form.

Run Because You Can!



After weeks of training, and miles upon miles of running, our Golden Empire Running Club made their first appearance at a 5K. They were excited to participate in the Run Because You Can 5K, which is a

Running for Rhett race. Ten of our runners participated in the 3.1 mile run through Old Sacramento and over the Tower Bridge. Thank you to the staff and parents that joined them, cheered them on, and welcomed them in at the finish line with hugs, high fives, and smiles!

If you and your family would like to join us for a Christmas-themed 5K, please contact Ms. Hutchins (Ingrid-hutchins@scusd.edu) for information and a discount code.



Do you shop at Target?

Since 1997, Target has donated over \$432 Million to K-12 schools across the country through its "Take Charge of Education" program. So far Golden Empire has benefited over \$6690.00 from this program. You can easily contribute to this program by using a Target Red Card (credit/debit) when you shop. 1% of all your purchases will be donated to Golden Empire through 5/14/2016.

To get started visit www.target.com/redcard/tcoe to register for a Target Red Card. Once you have completed your registration or if you already have a Target Red Card, complete the "Check Contribution" area to designate Golden Empire as your favorite school. The school ID number is 34900. As a bonus you will receive a 5% discount on all of your purchases, FREE shipping at Target.com, and 30 days extra on return items.

Golden Empire “Kids Can!”



The Golden Empire students and staff do it again! Our families, students and community donated 888 cans or non-perishable food items for the 2015 **Kids Can!** campaign. The classes

who brought in the most items and are the winners of ice cream parties are:

Mrs. Randazzo Kindergarten Class

Mr. Gardner Primary Class

Ms. Engstrom Intermediate Class

The KCRA Kids Can! Food Drive has been helping to feed hungry families in our community for more than 20 years. All canned and non-perishable food items benefit the Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services. While we did not meet our goal of collecting 2,000 items, all of our students are winners for participating in this community service of collecting items to help feed the less fortunate here in Sacramento. Thanks to Mrs. Lawson, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. DaCastello and our Student Council for organizing the event and collecting, sorting, and counting all of the items!

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!



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: 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 228-5838.

Spreading Holiday Cheer?

Many of our families like to recognize our teachers and staff during the holiday time. Because of budget issues, you might want to consider any gift card to Target or a similar store, a case or reams of paper, or any office supply store. You will make a teacher smile!



This month the PTO is hosting the Hand-Made Holiday night on 12/7/15.

This will be a fun filled night for students in grades K-6 to hand make gifts for family and friends. Tickets are only \$7.00 and can be purchased until 12/3.

The January Challenge is coming soon! Be sure to clip and save BoxTops and Labels for Education.

Warmest wishes for a happy holiday season and a wonderful new year!

Alison Milobar, PTO President
geptopresident@yahoo.com

December and January Calendar of Events

Day	Date	Time	Event / Activity	Location
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 Video Parent Review	Nurse's Office
Monday	12/14		Sports Spirit Day	
Monday	12/14	12:50pm	Spelling Bee	Cafeteria
Monday	12/14	2:30pm	PTO Meeting	Library
Tuesday	12/15		Random Hat Spirit Day	
Wednesday	12/16		Crazy Sock Spirit Day	
Wednesday	12/16		5 th Grade Puberty Education	Classroom
Thursday	12/17		Candy Cane (Red & White) Spirit Day	
Thursday	12/17		6 th Grade Puberty Education	Classroom
Thursday	12/17		1 st Trimester No Citation Assemblies	Cafeteria
Friday	12/18		Pajama Spirit Day	
Mon-Fri	12/21-1/1		Winter Break	
Monday	1/4/16	8:00am	School Resumes	Classroom
Monday	1/4		January Challenge Begins	Classroom
Friday	1/8		1 st Trimester Perfect Attendance Ice Cream Social	
Monday	1/11	2:30pm	PTO Meeting	Library
Thursday	1/14		Pennies for Patients Begins	Classroom
Friday	1/15		Academic Awards Assemblies	Cafeteria
Monday	1/18		No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day	
Friday	1/22		Geography Bee	Cafeteria
Tuesday	1/26		Family Science Night	Cafeteria
Friday	1/29		January Challenge Ends	Classroom

