



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 6 ★ March 2016

Soaring To New Heights, Together!

Principal's Corner



I sit tonight at my desk reflecting on another great PTO event—the Annual Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction. We are so fortunate to have a community of parents who dedicate their time and talent to create opportunities to bring families together, celebrate our students, and raise much needed extracurricular funds for our school. We are rich in diversity and parent involvement—this event brings the best of both strengths together. Thank you to everyone who was able to volunteer, attend, and thank you to those who will consider sharing their talents for future events like these. We are stronger when we each find a way to become actively involved in our school.

Welcome Spring! With Spring right around the corner, it is also time for parent-teacher-student conferences. Conferences begin March 11 and continue through March 18. You will be contacted by your child's teacher to set up a conference or you may request one, also. These conferences are extremely important and we know everyone will make an effort to come. As our Golden Empire students continue to progress we are excited and happy to share the news with you at conference time. And don't forget, the student is expected to attend the conference, also.

Speaking of conferences, have you heard about the Home Visit Program? Home visits are just that—a visit by 2 teachers to the student's home in the hope of increasing connections between school staff and students, in your community. Golden Empire is proud to be a partner with the California Home Visit Program, a program in 12 states, nationally. The goals are simple: to increase communication between the home and school and build relationships. This visit can also help teachers have a better understanding of the various strengths and challenges faced by each student and to meet the student and their family in a relaxed setting. Ideally home visits occur before the school year begins, but anytime is a good time for a home visit. Our four teachers who are our Golden Empire Home Visit ambassadors are Mr. Frankenberger, Mrs. Bone, Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Randazzo and Mr. Mitchell. These teachers have already visited over 30 homes, and more are being scheduled. Will you and your child want a home visit? If so, please look for the flier coming home soon, or email Mr. Frankenberger at norm-frankenberger@scusd.edu.

We all know firsthand the dangers our students face at drop-off and pick-up times. We have seen cars drive too fast down Canberra Dr. when students are in session. We are also seeing many of our parents jaywalk across the street, in a school zone, with their child. I am happy to share that the California Highway Patrol has a Rosemont officer that will be assigned just to our area. This officer will assist in ensuring drivers slow down and follow all traffic regulations near our school. I want to thank our school's Safety Committee, parents, and staff who have helped in ensuring our students' safety as they walk to and from school.

I look forward to seeing you all on campus soon. Thank you for supporting the Golden Empire School Community!

~ Dr. Eister, Principal

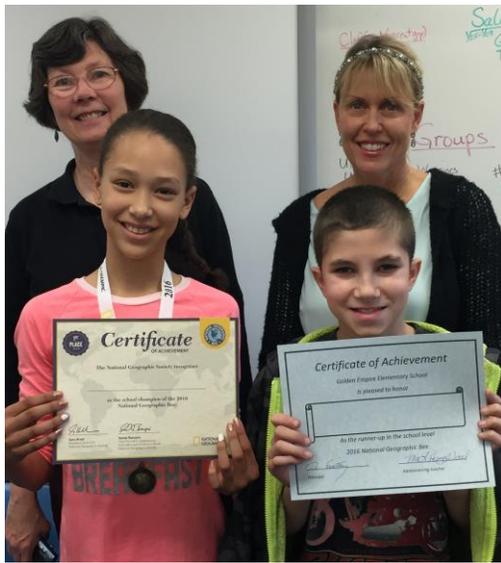
What's Inside?

ATS – CSUS.....p.3
Awards Assemblies.....p.3
Basketball Team.....p.4
CAASPP.....p.5
Calendar of Events...p.7-8

Conferences.....p.3
Dr. Seuss.....p.2
Geography Bee.....p.2
Jaywalking.....p.6
Library News.....p.4

Lost and Found.....p.5
M³.....p.4
PTO News.....p.6
Pennies for Patients.....p.5
Poetry Jam.....p.4

Shortened Days.....p.3
Spirit Wear.....p.6
Staff Parking Lot.....p.6
Visitors.....p.6



Do You Know Your Geography as Well as Our 2 Sixth Graders?

Meet Our 2016 Geography Bee Winner!

On January 22, Golden Empire held its annual Geography Bee, coordinated by 6th grade teacher Ms. Hogg-Wood and facilitated by kindergarten teacher Mrs. Randazzo. Eighteen bright intermediate students competed in this tough but interesting contest. The Geography Bee is run by the National Geographic Society and includes students in grades 4 through 8. The winner of the school Geography Bee must take an online test to qualify for the state competition. The National Geographic Bee selects the top 100 scores to compete at the state level.

We had fierce competition here at Golden Empire, so fierce that the final 5 contestants had to wait and finish the competition the following Monday! Our second runner-up was 6th grade student Dominic Moore from Ms. Sunahara's class. Our 2016 Geography Bee winner is 6th grader Olivia Howard from Ms. Hogg-Wood's class. Congratulations Olivia!

Want to test your geographic knowledge? Try these questions taken from the Geography Bee:

1. Which state is the leading producer of cheese: Indiana or Wisconsin?
2. The Adirondack Mountains are located in which state: Arkansas or New York?
3. Which landlocked country is farther from an ocean: Paraguay or Kazakhstan?
4. Climb one of Europe's highest peaks, Mont Blanc, located on the border between France, Switzerland, and what other country?
5. The St. Lawrence River flows out of the easternmost of the Great Lakes. Name this lake?

Answers: 1. Wisconsin. 2. NY 3. Kazakhstan 4. Italy 5. Lake Ontario

Thank You, and Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss!



Read Across America is an initiative on reading created by the National Education Association. A major component of the project is National Read Across America Day, an observance in the United States held on the school day closest to March 2, the birthday of Dr. Seuss. Read Across America Day is a day where reading is celebrated by everyone. It is also the birthday of a very famous author, Dr. Seuss, whose real name was Dr. Theodor Seuss Geisel.

Dr. Seuss was an American writer, poet, and cartoonist. Of course we mostly know him by the many children's books he wrote and illustrated. Dr. Seuss wrote over 60 children's books including Green Eggs and Ham, The Cat in the Hat, The Lorax, How the Grinch Stole Christmas, and One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish. In his early years he also worked as an illustrator for advertising campaigns, most notably for Standard Oil and as a political cartoonist. During World War II, he worked in an animation department of the United States Army. Dr. Seuss was born on March 2, 1904 in Springfield, Massachusetts and died in 1991 in California.

Did you know that Dr. Seuss was a perfectionist in his work and would sometimes spend up to a year on just one book? It was not uncommon for him to throw out 95% of his material until he settled on a theme for his book.

So on March 2 we celebrate the joy of reading and Dr. Seuss' birthday. We hope you take a few moments and pick up a great book. Just know that "Today is your day. Congratulations! You're off to great places, you're off and away. Today is your day. Your mountain is waiting. So, get on your way!" Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss! And Happy Read Across America Day!

Golden Empire Students Prepare for 2 Fun Events!

What's the Poetry Jam?

Join us for our 6th Annual Poetry Jam on March 18 at 9 am. This is an opportunity for students in grades 4-6 to show their gift of rhyme by participating in Golden Empire's Poetry Jam. Coordinated by 4th grade teacher, Mr. Snider, any intermediate student may recite a poem—an original or a classic. Poems can be serious, humorous, long or short, but they must be memorized. This "jam" is one of Golden Empire's highlights and is a lot of fun! Ask your intermediate student what poem s/he will be reciting. All are welcome to see our students jam and give some attention to an undervalued genre. All students participating receive a certificate and Brag Tag. And those students reciting a classic poem receive an extra-special Brag Tag! What a great way to appreciate poetry!

March Multiplication Madness!

We all know how important it is for students to memorize their multiplication tables; not knowing the tables makes math difficult. Golden Empire teachers and staff have emphasized multiplication tables, making it a school-wide focus. On March 31, 2nd—6th grade students will take a test consisting of 100 problems. Second graders will have 6 minutes, 3rd graders will have 5 minutes, 4th graders will have 4 minutes and 5th-6th grade students will have 3 minutes to try and complete 100 multiplication problems successfully. Students who successfully complete 100 multiplication problems with 100% accuracy will be rewarded with an ice cream treat, extra recess, a certificate and a Brag Tag. Furthermore, ready for this? There will be some students who will still have time to complete extra problems during their allotted time. The student in each grade (2nd-6th) who completes the most questions beyond the first 100 problems will each receive a gift card honoring their accomplishment! Wow! We wish our Eagles happy memorizing in preparing for M³!

Library News

Mrs. Perry's Library News

Read Across America is celebrated during the month of March to coincide with the birthday of Dr. Seuss. Reading with your child for 20 minutes every day will make a huge difference in their lives. Reading is the most important skill your student will learn and it will affect every part of their education and, ultimately, life. Give your child every opportunity to read.

We are so proud of the many students who won our Library Book Bingo. All of our students are preparing for a great future; help them all you can. We have a library of amazing books. It is a joy to watch your children learn and grow as they choose books for pleasure and specific reports on which they are working. Many of our second graders are working on animal reports. Our sixth graders have just finished up their state reports. Libraries are a wonderful asset to a school. We are so glad to have our own library, but we are limited in the number of books we have. Every child should have a library card and ample opportunity to visit the public library close to them. Thank you for encouraging reading in your home!



We Need Your Support for Golden Empire's Basketball Team!

Golden Empire has joined Einstein Middle School's Basketball League, ready to take on 10 other local elementary schools for the bragging rights of League Champion.

All are welcome to come out to watch and support the Golden Empire Team. All games are played at Einstein Middle School's Gym. The schedule is as follows. Go Golden Eagles!

Date	Time	Playing Against...
Wed., 3/2	3:30 pm	O. W. Erlewine
Wed., 3/9	4:15 pm	Hubert Bancroft
Tues., 3/15	3:30 pm	Camelia

Preparing for Spring State Testing

The California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress, or CAASPP, is the state academic testing program. CAASPP is a system intended to provide information that can be used to monitor student progress and ensure that all students leave high school ready for college and career. The CAASPP includes computer adaptive tests in English–language arts and mathematics as well as paper-based tests for 5th grade science (part of the old STAR system, which are state-normed).

When will we test at Golden Empire?

Lessons learned from last year's test will help ensure a successful implementation of the CAASPP system this school year. Golden Empire students will take the CAASPP tests in grades 3 - 6 from April 18 through May 27. Students will not be testing this entire time span—each grade level will test for approximately one week, total. An exact schedule will be sent home soon.

How can I learn more about the test?

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/practicetest.asp>. If you would like more information on CAASPP testing, please visit the Parent/Student tab of the California Department of Education CAASPP Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/>.

Will parents/guardians receive individual score reports?

Following the spring 2016 testing, students will receive individual score reports. Student score reports will be sent home to parents and will include an overall score, a description of the student's achievement level for English–language arts and mathematics, and other information.

Can CAASPP scores be compared to STAR scores?

It is important to note these scores cannot be compared to scores your child previously received on the STAR Program tests because this test is based on the new Common Core State Standards, involves different types of test questions, and will not be reported using the STAR Program reporting categories. The STAR Program had five reporting categories or proficiency levels, while CAASPP has four reporting categories. According to the recently established proficiency levels for CAASPP testing, we expect the percent of students who will achieve proficiency on CAASPP tests will decrease from previous STAR results. However, we expect to exceed state and national proficiency levels.

Pennies for Patients Update

Many thanks to Ms. Rinaldi for sponsoring the "Pennies for Patients" drive to support leukemia research. Thank you to each and every person for sending in your spare change for this worthwhile fundraiser for needy patients, right here in our community.

Our students raised a whopping \$2245! This is almost \$200 more than last year!

The class which raised the most amount of money was Mr. Snider's class, with a total of \$236.14! Wow! Congratulations, Golden Empire students, for a job well done!



They Lost It-We Found It!



We have a number of items collected in our Lost and Found clothing rack. Each morning Mr. Ron, our Plant Manager, places the rack out front near the cafeteria doors hoping the items will find their owners! Any items not finding their owners are sent to the District's Clothes Closet on a monthly basis. If your child has lost something, feel free to come by and look.



Thank you for joining us at the annual Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction last month. The food was plentiful and delicious, the raffle and silent auction were exciting, and the addition of the Disneyland raffle created a new level of excitement as the event came to a close.

Through your prize donations, silent auction bids, raffle ticket and breakfast ticket purchases you helped to raise over \$3300.00 for the PTO. Thank you!

This event is possible due to the hard work of Jenn Wilson, the PTO Special Events Coordinator. Thank you Jenn for coordinating an amazing, fun, and successful event. Another thank you to all the volunteers for their time and energy as well as all the students, families, teachers, staff, and community members for joining us last month.

The PTO is busy planning the upcoming Family Movie Night. We are currently taking movie suggestions for the 3rd annual movie night which will take place on May 6, 2016. All movie suggestions must be rated G or PG. Simply complete and return the orange suggestion form that came home with your student or visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MJCC3MZ> to offer your movie suggestions. Once the suggestions are reviewed, the PTO will select five movies and then the students will vote on which movie they would like to see in May. Be sure to mark your calendars for 5/6/16, you do not want to miss this great family event!

Alison Milobar, PTO President
geptopresident@yahoo.com

The Staff Parking Lot



The staff parking lot is for staff members only. Families have been seen pulling into the parking lot to drop off or pick up students. The staff parking lot is not a place for students.

Please help us in keeping our students safe! Do not use the parking lot to drop off your students. Please do not park in the parking spaces, as there are not enough parking spaces for staff members. Thank you for your cooperation.



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.

Help End School Zone Jaywalking

Families, just a reminder that Sacramento County has a School Zone Jaywalking Ordinance. Jaywalking across the street, especially with your child, is an offence. The ordinance is strictly enforced 30 minutes before school begins and 30 minutes after school begins as well as 30 minutes prior to the end of the school day and 30 minutes after school dismissal. It is everyone's responsibility to model safe traffic regulations for our students. We need all of our parents and guardians to do the right thing and use the cross walk each and every time you cross the street.



Show Your Golden Eagle Spirit!

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!!

March Calendar of Events

Day	Date	Time	Event / Activity	Location
Wednesday	3/2		Dr. Seuss Spirit Day	
Wednesday	3/2		Aqua Smart Live Assemblies	Cafeteria
Wednesday	3/2	3:30pm	GE Basketball Team vs. O.W. Erlewine	Einstein MS
Friday	3/4	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	3/7	2:30pm	PTO Meeting	Library
Wednesday	3/9	4:15pm	GE Basketball Team vs. Hubert Bancroft	Einstein MS
Friday	3/11		Dental Screening (Kinder.-4 th grades)	
Friday Mon-Fri	3/11 3/14-3/18		Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences Minimum Day Dismissal – Kind. 11:50am 1 st -3 rd 12:05pm and 4 th -6 th 12:11pm	Classroom
Saturday	3/12	10:00am- 12:00pm	Garden Club Work Day	School Garden
Sunday	3/13		Daylight Savings Time Begins – Set your clocks 1 hour forward	
Tuesday	3/15	3:30pm	GE Basketball Team vs. Camelia Basic	Einstein MS
Wednesday	3/16	5:00-7:30pm	Spring Scholastic Book Fair	Cafeteria
Thursday	3/17		Shamrock Spirit Day	
Friday	3/18		Silly Sock and Slipper Day	
Friday	3/18	9:00am	Poetry Jam	Cafeteria
Mon-Fri	3/21-3/25		Spring Break	
Monday	3/28	8:00am	School Resumes	Classroom
Tuesday	3/29		2 nd Trimester No Citation Assemblies	Cafeteria
Thursday	3/31		March Multiplication Madness	Classroom

Happy
Spring



April Calendar of Events

Friday	4/1	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	4/11	6:00pm	PTO Meeting	Library
Tuesday	4/12	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
Friday	4/15		CAASPP Kick Off Assembly	Cafeteria
Monday	4/18		CAASPP Testing Begins	Classroom
Friday	4/22		Earth Day – Flower Power and Tie Dye Spirit Day	
Wednesday	4/27		Administrative Professionals Day	
Wednesday	4/27	6:30-8:00pm	Family Picnic and Game Night	Quad & Cafeteria

