



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



Happy Spring! With spring here, it must be that time to start thinking about our annual state testing period. The test is called the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). These tests replace the former STAR program. The CAASPP will be given to all students in grades 3-6. The CAASPP tests are completely computer-based. The students will take the test on Apple Macbook Air laptops which were provided by the school district. As there are only 3 classroom sets of

computers, students will take the CAASPP test on different days. The state is still requiring current 5th grade students to take the CST Science Test. You will find a schedule enclosed in this newsletter so you know which days your student(s) will test.

It is very important that your child attend school during this time frame—please do not schedule any appointments during the school day or vacations during this time. Our teachers are working very hard to ensure that students will be prepared to do their best on these new tests.

What is the most important and also the easiest test taking tip to implement? Making sure your child is at school—each and every day and on time. We are seeing a dramatic increase in tardies. We often have as many as 50 students late, daily. These tardies are very disruptive. When a student is late to class, the teacher has to stop instruction to change the attendance in the computer, remind him/her to turn in homework and then give directions for whatever activity they missed. The other students lose their focus. These interruptions = lost instruction. Please assist us in preventing so many disruptions by bringing your student to school on time. Instruction begins at 8 am. We so appreciate our families who make every effort to get their child to school on time and make appointments during non-school hours. We are giving monthly awards to students who attend every day and special awards once each trimester for students who are not tardy. Together we can improve attendance and decrease disruptions!

Are you interested in serving on our school's School Site Council for next year? Maybe you know of a parent who would be interested? Please review our election/nomination form in this newsletter. We are looking for parents who are willing to serve a 2-year term. Thanks for your help in making the Golden Empire Eagles soar!

Just a reminder about safety drills. At Golden Empire, we practice fire drills on a monthly basis. During the next few weeks, we will be practicing intruder and lockdown drills. It is important for the students and staff to be prepared if an emergency were to happen. Please know that these drills are only for practice. It is best to be prepared.

Thank you all for your continued support of Golden Empire!

~ Dr. Eister, Principal

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It Was the Time to Rhyme!

GE's 6th Annual Poetry Jam Was a Slammin' Good Time!

Forty-five intermediate students showed they have the gift of rhyme by participating in Golden Empire's 6th Annual Poetry Jam on March 18. Coordinated by fourth grade teacher, Mr. Snider, the intermediate classes were treated to a variety of poems recited by the 45 students—classics such as "Midnight Ride of Paul Revere," recited by Heavyn Sargeant and humorous poems, such as "Snowball," recited by Ryan Wilson. There were even some original poems written by students Jeremiah Hardge, Michael Favila, Landon Jones, Braydon Barnum and Mazzy Creeger. The students recited their memorized poem in an informal "jam" session that proved to be entertaining, thought-provoking and a lot of fun. There were even some poems recited by our very own teachers! What a great way to learn about and appreciate poetry!

Take Your Child to Work Day = Unexcused Absences



**Missing
School
Matters**

Each year we have a few students participate in *Take Your Daughter/Child to Work Day* on the 4th Thursday in April. Misunderstanding has led families to believe students who participate will not be considered absent from school. This is not the case—students will receive an unexcused absence.

We heartily endorse efforts to help children increase their awareness of career options which will be available to them. We believe taking your children to work during the summer months, when they are on vacation from school, is more effective. This will prevent parents/guardians and their children from having to choose between school and this activity.

If your child participates in this event, understand that s/he will be marked as absent from school and required to make-up missed work.



Home Visits Are Here!

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 teachers who are our Golden Empire Home Visit ambassadors are Mr. Frankenberger, Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Bone, Mrs. Randazzo and Mr. Mitchell. These teachers have already visited over 40 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.



CAASPP Tests Are Here Testing for Students in Grades 3-6 Begins in April

The California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress, or CAASPP, which has replaced the former STAR Test, is the new state academic testing program. CAASPP is a system to provide information that can be used to monitor student progress and ensure all students leave high school ready for college and career. CAASPP includes computer adaptive tests in English–language arts and mathematics as well as paper-based tests for science.

Students' testing schedule is as follows:

Grade	Teacher	Dates
6	Sunahara	Monday, April 18 – Monday, April 25
5/6	Engstrom	Monday, April 18 – Monday, April 25 AND Tues., May 17 – Thurs., May 19 (5 th Science)
6	Hogg-Wood	Monday, April 18 – Monday, April 25
5	Hutchins	Tuesday, April 26 – Tuesday, May 3 AND Tues., May 17 – Thurs., May 19 (Science)
5	Bergeron	Tuesday, April 26 – Tuesday, May 3 AND Tues., May 17 – Thurs., May 19 (Science)
4/5/6	DaCastello	Tuesday, April 26 – Tuesday, May 3 AND Tues., May 17 – Thurs., May 19 (5 th Science)
3	Rinaldi	Wednesday, May 4 – Wednesday, May 11
3	Conway	Wednesday, May 4 – Wednesday, May 11
3	Gardner	Wednesday, May 4 – Wednesday, May 11
4	Macey	Thursday, May 12 – Monday, May 23
4	Johnson	Thursday, May 12 – Monday, May 23
4	Snider	Thursday, May 12 – Monday, May 23

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 www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/practicetest.asp.

Following testing, students will receive individual score reports. These score reports will be sent home to parents and will include an overall score, a description of the student's achievement levels, and other information. It is important to note that these scores cannot be compared to scores that your child previously received on the STAR 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.

For more information, visit the Parent/Student tab of the CDE CAASPP Web page at www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/. If you have questions regarding your child's participation, contact Dr. Eister at 228.5890 or via email: ireneei@scusd.edu.





Need a Summer Program? Consider Summer Quest!

Summer Quest is a free summer program that will be based here at Golden Empire, June 27—July 28, from 8 am—2 pm, Monday—Thursday. Sponsored by the Sacramento City USD, Summer Quest is a 7-week opportunity for incoming 1st through 6th grade students to participate in a meaningful and engaging summer learning program. Students will meet new friends and get the support to strengthen their literacy, math, social science, nutritional and physical activity skills.

Additionally, all participating students will receive a breakfast and lunch daily.

This year's 7- week program will give students an opportunity to learn with their peers through fun and student driven project-based activities. These projects will be recognized at a district-wide celebration that will bring together all Summer Quest sites to showcase their work and participate in fun physical and academic challenges.

The SCUSD Summer Quest program is coordinated by the Youth Development Support Services' (YDSS) Youth Engagement Services Unit (YES). YES has partnered with various community based organizations to provide onsite management at Golden Empire and other selected schools. All sites are required to maintain a ratio of 1 adult for every 20 students. Each site will have an onsite Program Manager. The Program Manager will be supervised by a YES Area Specialist.

Applications are due April 29th. The application lottery will occur by May 6, with lottery notification occurring by May 13. If you want to register, go to www.scusdyouthdevelopment.org or call 916-643-7993. Space is limited and enrollment is based on a lottery process.

Need more information? Contact the Youth Engagement Services Unit at summermatters@scusd.edu or call the school office at 228.5890.



Second Trimester Awards Assemblies

Our Awards Assemblies will take place on Tuesday, April 12 in our school's Multi-Purpose Room. Everyone is welcome to attend to see many of our students receive awards and celebrate their successes. Please see the times below for each assembly:

8:15am - 3rd & 4th Grades

9:15am - 5th & 6th Grades

10:15 - 1st & 2nd Grades

Mrs. Perry's Library News *Reading Counts!*

During April we celebrate the birthdays of some amazing authors: Maya Angelou (biography and poems), Washington Irving (Rip Van Winkle and The Legend of Sleepy Hollow), Beverly Cleary (Ramona and many other titles), Barbara Parks (Junie B. Jones series) and William Shakespeare (Stories from William Shakespeare). We hope your students take advantage of the great books in our library to build a wealth of knowledge and understand of the world we live in. Reading can instill a love of learning. As we approach state testing time (April and May), reading is a most essential part of the testing experience.

If you do not yet, start reading with your child every day. Twenty minutes a day is a small investment that will pay huge dividends for you and your child. Every student has access to the Golden Empire Library for the school year, but during the summer (and all year long!) please take advantage of our county libraries.

Our library is small. Please make sure that when your student checks a book out of the library that it is returned when it is due. There are many students with books overdue. If a book becomes damaged or lost, please pay for it promptly so it can be replaced. Thank you for taking care of our books! Our Golden Empire Library thanks you!

Take Your Parents to **LUNCH DAY**

Families, don't forget about Take Your Parent 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 (\$3.50)! Bring a blanket and/or chairs to sit in the quad area and enjoy lunch with their child. If it is raining, however, the event will be cancelled.

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. Also, due to liability, only your children may have lunch with you—your child's friends are not permitted to join you unless supervised by his/her own guardian.

Our next Parent Lunchtime will be Friday, April 1. Parents, please remember to sign-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: 12:05pm-12:55pm



- To Jenn Wilson, Alison Milobar, the Golden Empire PTO Board Members and all of the volunteers who helped with the Pancake Breakfast back in February. What a wonderful and successful event! We had fun and raised money for our PTO in a delicious way!

- To Marilyn Perry, Alison Milobar, Jeanette Dubesa, Ms. Engstrom, Mrs. Seto, Mrs. Mendoza, Crisan Baker, Ms. Mercado, Mr. Ron and Ms. Gricelda for all of their help with our recent Book Fair. Our event was a success thanks to you!

- To Maria Avetisov, Dee Mendoza and Isabel Razo-Belman for their translation assistance during our parent/teacher/student conferences.

- To an anonymous family who donated \$100 to our school! Thank you!

- To Jas Singh for her help with the Perfect Attendance Ice Cream Social.

- To all of our classroom helpers. We couldn't do our work without your support!



**Join Golden Empire teachers
as they serve your favorite
McDonald's meal and help raise
money for Golden Empire.**

Thurs., April 7th from 5:00-7:00pm

Eat In – Take Out – Drive Thru

8901 Folsom Blvd, Sacramento 95826 (Corner of Folsom Blvd & Manlove Rd)

25% of all sales are donated to the Golden Empire PTO

2016 CAASPP Testing



This year's CAASPP testing will take place April 18th through May 27th. Please do not schedule doctor or dentist appointments during school hours in this window of your student's testing days. Only grades 3—6 will be taking the test.

During this time, please make sure your child gets to bed on time and eats a nutritious breakfast each morning. Please encourage your child to "Do their best and reach their goal!"



All students entering grades 7-12 this fall must show proof of receiving their TDAP (tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis) booster before they can attend school in September. This applies to every current student, new student and transfer student. Please bring proof of this booster to school to be reviewed and recorded. Visit www.shotsforschool.org for more information.

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.



Changes to the Save Mart S.H.A.R.E.S. Program

The Save Mart S.H.A.R.E.S. program is now powered by eScrip. This means you will no longer need to swipe a S.H.A.R.E.S. card when you shop at Save Mart or Food Maxx. Simply visit savemart.com/shares to register a 10-digit phone number and enter that phone number each time you shop. It is that easy! Enter the phone number and Golden Empire will receive up to 3% of your purchase total.



Cards like this one will no longer work after March 31, 2016. To keep supporting Golden Empire enroll in eScrip today at savemart.com/shares.

Each year Save Mart Superstores donate over \$5 million in support of the communities they serve. For many years Golden Empire has benefited from their generous donations.

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 offense. 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.

Get Ready for the Plastic Bag Ban with Golden Empire Reusable Bags



Recently the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors voted in favor of a plastic bag ban within the county limits, joining the City of Sacramento and about 150 other communities in California that have banned plastic bags that are not reusable. Beginning July 1, 2016 grocery stores, pharmacies, and other retail stores will no longer be able to give out carryout plastic bags. Be prepared for the new law by purchasing Golden Empire reusable bags for only \$2.50 each. You will be helping the environment and showing your Golden Empire pride every time you shop with your reusable bags. Order forms are available in the school office.



This month McTeacher's Night is back! This popular event will take place on Thursday, 4/7, from 5:00-7:00pm at the McDonald's on Folsom Blvd and Manlove Road (8901 Folsom Blvd). Enjoy your favorite McDonald's meal served by a Golden Empire teacher. 25% of all sales, including take-out and drive-thru, will be donated to Golden Empire. The students love this event as they get to eat McDonald's and see their favorite teacher outside of school. I hope you will join us.

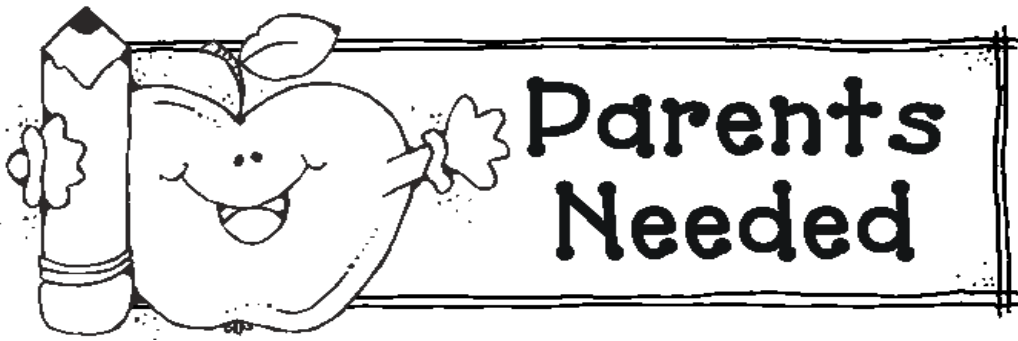
The students have voted and the results are in... "Hotel Transylvania 2" will be shown at Family Movie Night on Friday, May 6th. This is a FREE event for all Golden Empire families. The gates will open at 7:30pm and the movie will begin at 8:00pm.

Have you ever considered volunteering with the PTO? Now is a great time to think about how you can volunteer and what skills you can bring to the PTO. Maybe you would like to coordinate an event such as Family Movie Night, BoxTops Challenge, or Pancake Breakfast? Maybe you have time to copy and staple the monthly school newsletter? Maybe you love working with numbers and would make a great treasurer? Maybe you have a great idea for a new school event? Maybe you love taking pictures? Whatever way you can help, we would like to hear from you. Join us at the April PTO Meeting on Monday, April 11th at 6:00pm in the school library or contact me at the email listed below. All are welcome to volunteer with the PTO!

Alison Milobar, PTO President
geptopresident@yahoo.com

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!



Golden Empire School Site Council Members Needed

Please consider serving or nominating a friend to serve on the 2016—2017 School Site Council.

The School Site Council (SSC) is an advisory committee that reviews and recommends changes to the school plan (this plan defines the academic focus for the school) and develops and approves the school budget in accordance with state and federal laws. Every school that receives Title I monies must have a SSC.

The committee is a collaborative effort between parents, teachers and staff and meets approximately five times a year.

We need parent volunteers to run for a two year term. If you are interested or would like to nominate someone, please fill out the form below. Questions? Contact Dr. Eister, principal, at 228.5890.



GOLDEN EMPIRE'S SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL (SSC) 2016—2017 APPLICATION / NOMINATION FORM

I would like to serve on the Golden Empire School Site Council (SSC) for the 2016—2017 School Years. I understand there is an election process.

I would like to nominate _____ to serve on the Golden Empire School Site Council (SSC) for the 2016—2017 School Year.

I have talked with him/her and s/he has agreed to serve.

I have NOT talked with this individual, but believe s/he would serve if asked.

My Name _____ Phone _____

Email Address _____

Youngest Child's Name _____ Teacher _____

Signature _____

**Please return this form to your child's teacher by Monday, May 6, 2016.
Thank you for your help!**

April & May Calendar of Events

Day	Date	Time	Event / Activity	Location
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
Thursday	4/7	5:00-7:00pm	McTeacher's Night	Folsom & Manlove
Monday	4/11	6:00pm	PTO Meeting	Library
Tuesday	4/12	8:15am 9:15am 10:15am	3 rd & 4 th - Trimester Awards Assembly 5 th & 6 th - Trimester Awards Assembly 1 st & 2 nd - Trimester Awards Assembly	Cafeteria
Wednesday	4/13		Spring Picture Day	
Thursday	4/14		CAASPP Kick Off Assembly	Cafeteria
Friday	4/15	2:00-3:00pm	Garden Club (for enrolled 3 rd -6 th graders)	Library
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
Mon-Fri	5/2-5/6		Teacher Appreciation Week	
Friday	5/6	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	5/6	7:30pm	Family Movie Night	Grass Quad
Mon-Fri	5/9-5/13		Classified Staff Appreciation Week	
Monday	5/9		6 th Graders to Sly Park	In Front of School
Monday	5/9	2:30pm	PTO Meeting	Library
Friday	5/13		Progress Notes Go Home	Classroom
Friday	5/13	Approx. 1:15pm	6 th Graders return from Sly Park	In Front of School
Friday	5/13	2:00-3:00pm	Garden Club (for enrolled 3 rd -6 th graders)	Library
Friday	5/20		Class Color Spirit Day	
Wednesday	5/25	9:00am	Variety Show Performance - Primary	Cafeteria
Thursday	5/26	9:00am	Variety Show Performance - Intermediate	Cafeteria
Thursday	5/26	5:00pm 6:00-7:00pm	Variety Show Open House	Cafeteria Classrooms
Monday	5/30		No School – Memorial Day	