



The Eagle Express

April 2019
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Golden Empire Elementary School • Sacramento City Unified School District
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Principal's Corner

As I write this message from my office, I see students leading their parents to their classroom for their student/parent/teacher conference. This is such an exciting time; our student leaders have the privilege of sharing their growth and academic successes—and their WIGs—with their parents. Golden Empire students are demonstrating their leadership by presenting their Leadership Notebooks. Just think of all the skills our leaders are developing: organization, public speaking and presentation skills, listening, self-confidence, and self-reflection, just to name a few. As principal, I have the privilege of attending many of our student/parent/teacher conferences. Each one is different, and each one is important.

None of this would happen without our dedicated parents, guardians and families. These moments, the very moments that make Golden Empire such a great place, happen due to the synergy (Habit 6) that occurs between our families, students, teachers and staff. Thank you for taking the time to attend these important conferences!

April is also the time for CAASPP testing. Regardless of what our opinions are about standardized testing, they have always been a part of our educational process and most likely will continue in some form or another. Golden Empire 3-6th grade students will take the CAASPP Test between April 22 and May 17. Testing will occur Monday--Friday between 8:15 and noon. It is vitally important that all students in grades 3-6 be at school and on time during this time period. Opportunities for make-up sessions will be very limited. It is expected that each student will have about 6-8 hours of testing over that time period. The CAASPP is an online test that involves performance tasks that include classroom discussions prior to the assessment portion. Gone are the multiple choice questions, and in their place are multiple step questions that involve writing and critical thinking skills. Parents will receive individual student test results; the scores are also used to rate schools.

Having said all that I ponder the question, "What is a measure of success?" Is it a test score? Is it growth over time? Is it a willingness to take on new opportunities and challenges and learn from our failures and successes? Is it that "I did it!" feeling that comes with mastering a difficult or new task? Is it being happy with who we are and what we contribute to our family, community, society and world? It is probably a bit of all of the aforementioned—and then some. We all measure success differently, but I challenge that success is definitely more than a label assigned to us by the results of a standardized test. While the test is an important measure of our growth as a school community, please keep it in perspective...it is but one measure!

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!

With the end of the school year quickly approaching, I want to thank each of you for your ongoing support of our students, our teachers and staff, and our mission here at Golden Empire. This year has been, and continues to be, a success due to the collective efforts of all in providing opportunities for our students to succeed and grow.

~ Dr. Irene Eister, Principal

Mr. Lovrin's Library News

Thank you to all that attended the book fair last month. Letting your students choose their own book is instrumental in encouraging them to read. We sold \$3,400 worth of books, and raised over \$900 for new library books. Thank you for helping us supply all students with new and exciting books to keep them engaged in reading for pleasure and learning.

As you are putting your new books from the book fair on the shelf, please check to see if you have any books you are willing to part with. We are always happy to take book donations. We will use any book we don't have, and will hold a book sale at the end of the year with the books that we can't use, or already have. All money from the book sale will go directly back to the school.

Library Book Bingo is ending soon. Please encourage your student to participate. Library Book Bingo helps expand the types of books that students read. As students challenge themselves with new subjects, they will greatly improve their ability to learn new things, and adapt more quickly to new information. This helps them reach their full potential as leaders both inside and outside the classroom.

Nothing can take you farther than a book and your imagination. READ!



We Need YOU for the Variety Show!

Variety Show Try-Outs will be held on Tuesday, April 30 and Wednesday, May 1 from 2:15-3:30pm. If you want to participate in this year's Variety Show, you must attend one of these two try-out dates. At try-outs you must submit copies of the song lyrics to any music you will be using for approval. If you are performing a skit, you must have the dialogue written out so that it may also be approved. Also required at try-outs is a parent permission slip. Questions? Students should contact their class representative or the Student Leadership Advisors (Mr. DaCastello or Mrs. Johnson). Good Luck!

Take Your Child to Work Day = Unexcused Absences



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.



CAASPP Tests are Here Testing for Students in Grades 3-6 Begins April 22

The California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress, or CAASPP, is the 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. Student testing schedules are as follows:

Grade	Teacher	Dates
5	Bergeron	Mon, 4/22 - Fri, 4/26 AND Mon, 5/20 (5 th Grade Science)
5	Witteborg	Mon, 4/22 - Fri, 4/26 AND Mon, 5/20 (5 th Grade Science)
4/5	Kurihara	Mon, 4/22 - Fri, 4/26 AND Mon, 5/20 (5 th Grade Science)
3	Brown	Mon, 4/29 - Fri, 5/3
3	Gardner	Mon, 4/29 - Fri, 5/3
3/4	Macey	Mon, 4/29 - Fri, 5/3
4/5/6	DaCastello	Mon, 4/29 - Fri, 5/3 AND Mon, 5/20 (5 th Grade Science)

Grade	Teacher	Dates
3	Conway	Mon, 5/6 - Fri, 5/10
3	Seto	Mon, 5/6 - Fri, 5/10
4	Johnson	Mon, 5/6 - Fri, 5/10
4	Conklin	Mon, 5/13 - Fri, 5/17
6	Engstrom	Mon, 5/13 - Fri, 5/17
6	Hogg-Wood	Mon, 5/13 - Fri, 5/17
5/6	Reynolds	Mon, 5/13 - Fri, 5/17 AND Mon, 5/20 (5 th Grade Science)

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>

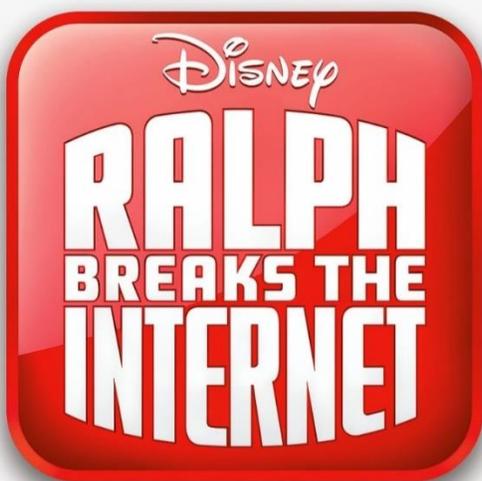
Following testing, students will receive individual score reports. These score reports will be sent home to parents and will include an overall score, a description of the student's achievement levels, and other information.

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 395.4580 or via email: irenei@scusd.edu.

Join us for Golden Empire's 6th Annual Family Movie Night



presented by the Golden Empire PTO



Where: Golden Empire Grass Quad

Date: Friday, April 26th

Time: Gates open at 7:30pm

Movie begins at 8:00pm

Admission: FREE!

 Blanket Seating on Grass Quad

 Lawn Chair Seating on Walkways

 Concessions will be available for purchase

2019 CAASPP Testing



With a few weeks before the CAASPP, our teachers are looking for creative and effective ways to maximize the remaining instructional time to provide our students with the necessary tools that are needed to become Proficient or Advanced in English Language Arts, Math, and Science (for the 5th graders). It is imperative that all students are in school during these assessments and report on time, as modifications to daily schedules will occur in order to create a conducive testing environment for all students. This year's CAASPP testing will take place April 22 through May 18. 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.

Parent Tips to Help Prepare Your Student for Standardized Testing

What your student is learning on a daily basis builds the foundation for being able to demonstrate high achievement on tests. During the weeks leading up to the test, begin to talk with your child about the importance of giving their best effort during testing. The following thoughts will help you in preparing your child for being ready to give the test his or her all.

The Night Before:

- Help your child get to bed on time. Research shows that being well-rested helps students do better.
- Keep your routine as normal as possible. Upsetting natural routines may make children feel insecure.
- Mention the test to show you're interested, but don't dwell on it.
- Plan ahead to avoid conflicts on the morning of the test.

The Morning of the Test:

- Get up early to avoid rushing. Be sure to have your child at school on time.
- Have your child eat a good breakfast but not a heavy one. Research shows that students do better if they have breakfast before they take tests.
- Have your child dress in something comfortable.
- Be positive about the test. Acknowledge that tests can be hard, and that they are designed so that no one will know all of the answers. Explain that doing your best is what counts. It is important to make your child comfortable and confident about the test.

After the Test:

- Talk to your child about his or her feelings about the test, making sure you acknowledge the effort such a task requires.
- Discuss what was easy and what was difficult; discuss what your child learned from the test

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.

Leader in Me® Family Connection

I can do things that you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things.

-Mother Teresa

Habit of the Month

Habit 6 – Synergize *Together is Better*

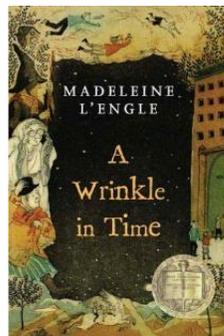
Habit 6, Synergize, means when two or more people work together to create a better solution than either would have thought of alone. It's not your way or my way, but a better way. Synergy is taking good ideas and making them better by working together.

Examples of synergy come from nature, history, literature, and personal experiences. For example, synergy happens in nature when a flock of geese heads south for the winter. They fly in a V formation because due to the updraft, the entire flock can fly farther than if each bird flew alone.

Literature Corner

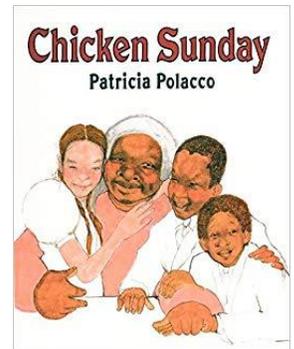
Habit 6 – Synergize

Below are great books to read to your children in which Habit 6 is highlighted in the story line:



Older Students (3rd-6th)
A Wrinkle in Time
By Madeline L'Engle

Younger Students (K-2nd)
Chicken Sunday
By Patricia Polacco



Story Time

Read the story above or another and discuss how the characters worked together and made it better.

We did it!

Talk Time

Think of a project that you can complete as a family. How will working together make it better?

We did it!

Family Time

Decide on a project to complete as a family. Gather ideas on how to complete the project.

We did it!

Work Time

Work on a project for the house with the family. Examples: clean up the back yard, build a bird house.

We did it!

Play Time

Give your children a chance to choose a fun activity you can do together.

We did it!

Take Your Parent 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 (\$4.00)! 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 final Parent Lunchtime will be Friday, May 3. Parents, please remember to sign-in at the gate first. We look forward to seeing you there!

Lunch times are as follows:

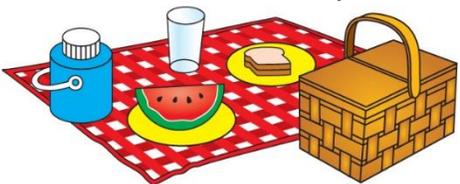
5th & 6th Grades: 11:30am-12:10pm

4th Grade: 11:45am-12:25pm

1st Grade: 11:55am-12:45pm

Kindergarten: 12:00pm

2nd & 3rd Grades: 12:05pm-12:55pm



New Rule **No Shot, No School**

Parents of Incoming 7th-12th Grade Students

7th Grade TDAP Requirement

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.



- To Dale Lovrin for coordinating our annual Spring Book Fair! This event would not be possible without the support of our PTO. Lots of thanks go out to Robin Wilson, Dee Mendoza, and Ms. Gricelda for all of their help! Our event was a success thanks to you!

- To Dawn Fordham, our Plant Whisperer, who continuously takes care of our beautiful plants at the front of the school. Thank you!

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

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

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.

Use Our Convenient Drop-Off and Pick-Up Zones!



STUDENT
PICK UP
AND
DROP OFF
AREA

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!



This month the students have voted and the results are in... "Ralph Breaks the Internet" will be shown at Family Movie Night on Friday, April 26th! 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.

Next month the PTO will be showing appreciation to all of our amazing teachers and staff. Please join us in showing your appreciation during Teacher Appreciation week 5/6 to 5/10! We have some fun treats planned and we will need your help, but shh...it's a secret! More details to come.

Join us for our next PTO Meeting on Monday, May 13th at 2:30pm in the library. All are welcome to volunteer with the PTO!

Robin Wilson, PTO President
goldenempirepto@gmail.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.

April and May Calendar of Events

Day	Date	Time	Event / Activity	Location
Monday	4/22		Flower Power, Tie Dye, Hippie Spirit Day	
Monday	4/22		Mr. Bergeron, Mrs. Kurihara, & Mrs Witteborg's classes begin CAASPP testing	
Mon-Fri	4/22-26		6 th Grade at Sly Park	
Tuesday	4/23	6:30-8:00pm	Family Picnic & Game Night	MPR & Quad
Wednesday	4/24	2:02pm	Kona Ice	In Front of School
Friday	4/26	7:30pm	Family Movie Night	Quad
Monday	4/29		Mr. Gardner, Mrs. Brown, Ms. Macey, & Mr. DaCastello's classes begin CAASPP testing	
Tues-Wed	4/30-5/1	2:15-3:30pm	Variety Show Try-Outs	Room 13
Friday	5/3		Flag Day Spirit Day Dress in the colors of your heritage flag	
Friday	5/3	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
Mon-Fri	5/6-10		Teacher Appreciation Week	
Monday	5/6		Mrs. Johnson, Ms. Conway, & Mrs. Seto's classes begin CAASPP testing	
Monday	5/6	6:00-7:15pm	Kindergarten APTT Meeting	Classrooms
Friday	5/10	2:15-3:15pm	Garden Club for enrolled 3 rd -6 th Graders	Library
Monday	5/13		Ms. Engstrom, Ms. Hogg-Wood, Mrs. Conklin, & Ms. Reynold's classes begin CAASPP testing	
Monday	5/13	2:30pm	PTO Meeting – All are welcome!	Library
Monday	5/13	6:00PM	6 TH Grade Parent Planning Meeting	Library
Wednesday	5/15	2:02pm	Kona Ice	In Front of School
Friday	5/17		Freaky Friday Spirit Day Students dress like Teachers and Teachers dress like Students	
Mon-Fri	5/20-24		Classified Staff Appreciation Week	
Monday	5/20		5 th Grade Classes complete CAASPP Testing	
Monday	5/27		No School – Memorial Day Holiday	
Tuesday	5/28	8:45am	Variety Show Performance for K-3 rd Grades	MPR
Tuesday	5/28	6:00pm	6 TH Grade Parent Planning Meeting	Library
Wednesday	5/29	8:45am	Variety Show Performance for 4 th -6 th Grades	MPR
Wednesday	5/29	5:00-6:00pm	Variety Show	Quad
Wednesday	5/29	6:00-7:00pm	Leadership Showcase	Classrooms
Friday	5/31		Character Spirit Day Disney, Marvel, Etc.	



April Showers Bring May Flowers





Golden Empire School Site Council Members Needed

Please consider serving or nominating a friend to serve on the 2019—2021 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 916.395.4580 or ireneei@scusd.edu.



GOLDEN EMPIRE'S SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL (SSC) 2019—2021 APPLICATION / NOMINATION FORM

I would like to serve on the Golden Empire School Site Council (SSC) for the 2019—2021 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 2019—2021 School Years.

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, 2019.
Thank you for your help!**