



THE EAGLE EXPRESS



Golden Empire Elementary School ★ 9045 Canberra Drive ★ Sacramento ★ 916.395.4580
Sacramento City Unified School District ★ www.goldenempire.scusd.edu
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Soaring To New Heights, Together!



As 2016 winds down many of us will take some time to reflect upon the year and look forward to the fresh opportunities a new year brings . . .

There is so much to be thankful for at Golden Empire. First, I am thankful for our parent volunteers, especially our consistent volunteers who work in the classrooms, tutor students, help teachers, copy materials and/or volunteer at our community events. Our PTO volunteers work tirelessly to provide many of the “extras” that make school so memorable: assemblies, field trips, band, engaging curriculum, and enrichment opportunities. My front office staff sets the tone for our school. They are the first people visitors meet and they establish the positive, calm, and caring culture at Golden Empire. Plus, they have the nearly impossible task of keeping me in line! The support staff, from the custodial team, to the kitchen crew, and all our aides provide so much support to all us. Of course, our teachers...there are not enough words to express how much I appreciate what they do. They are the hardest working teachers around. Finally, nothing can compare to the absolute joy for learning that our children bring to school. I am reminded, at a recent Leader of the Week celebration, about the special innocent wisdom our children possess and how much we can learn from them. Many students thanked us for the recognition and celebration, innocent to the fact that we were thanking them for their acts of kindness and leadership. To them kindness and leadership is just the right thing to do and it is done without the expectation of any recognition. I can honestly say that after interacting with our Golden Eagles I leave school with my bucket filled, even if it was empty when I came to work.

As this holiday season is a time for gratitude and goodwill, I want to thank you, Golden Empire Families, 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.

This year has been extraordinary, especially with the implementation of The Leader in Me program, and next year looks even brighter and full of new adventures. All of us at Golden Empire wish you and your family good cheer, good health and a prosperous new year! Here's to an extraordinary 2017!

~ Dr. Eister, Principal



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Come to Our Awards Assemblies!

December 16th 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! Everyone is welcome to attend to see some of our students receive awards and celebrate their successes. We are proud of our students and want to recognize them for all of their efforts and continued hard work.

The times are as follows:

8:15am - 3rd & 4th Grades

9:15am - 5th & 6th Grades

10:15am - 1st & 2nd Grades

CONGRATULATIONS

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!!



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!

GE Students Vote for Their New Student Leadership



November 8, 2016— Election Day—was very special at Golden Empire. Intermediate students participated in their own

Election Day activities, voting for Golden Empire's 2016-2017 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 8, the candidates delivered excellent and compelling speeches during the Student Leadership Officer Assembly—speaking in front of 300 students and staff. These were some of the best speeches we have ever had during our Student Leadership Elections. Following the assembly, all intermediate students marked their paper ballots to elect Student Leadership comprised of 4 offices: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Congratulations to our 2016-2017 Student Leadership Officers:

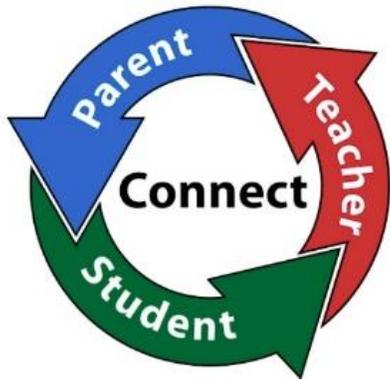
President: Vanessa Escamilla
Vice-President: Ethan Orr
Secretary: Angie Gonzales
Treasurer: Mazzy Creeger



Classroom Representatives:

Mrs. Johnson: Lita DeLaTorre & Bella Miller
Mr. Snider: Samuel Kast & Joshua Walters
Mr. DaCastello: AR Alkhier & Hannah Heckley
Miss Sunahara: Chloe Lacy & Grace Scott
Mr. Bergeron: Armando Chavez-Martinez & Jayden Reed
Ms. Reynolds: Hailey Gonzales & Jerimiah Dawson
Ms. Engstrom: Fernando Escamilla & Mitchell Milobar
Ms. Hogg-Wood: Nexalize Esquilin & Jason Johnson
Mrs. Seto: AJ Bitker & Yuliana Khoronzhak

It's Time for Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences!



Where has this year gone? As we wrap up 2016, we also wrap up the 1st trimester of school—with parent/teacher/student conferences beginning Thursday, December 1 and concluding on Friday, December 9. We will be on minimum 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.

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: Wednesday, December 14, 2016 from 6:00-8:00pm

Where: Golden Empire Cafeteria

Cost: \$7.00 per student (order tickets by Friday 12/9)

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 will be allowed.



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.

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 or may spend time in the library. 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.



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 395-4580 option 1 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 2 weeks, 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.

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 "Kids Can!"



The Golden Empire students and staff do it again! Our families, students and community donated 1,359 cans or non-perishable food items for the 2016

Kids Can campaign. The classes who brought in the most items and are the winners of ice cream parties are:

- Mrs. Randazzo Kindergarten
- Mr. Gardner Primary
- Mr. Snider Intermediate

The KCRA 3 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 Leadership for organizing the event and collecting, sorting, and counting all of the items!



Minimum Day Schedule for Parent - Teacher - Student Conferences

December 1st – December 9th

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Dismissal Time</u>
Kindergarten	11:35am
1 st -3 rd Grades	12:10pm
4 th -6 th Grades	12:19pm

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.



Under the direction of teachers Mr. Gardner, Mr. Snider, 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!



This month the PTO is hosting the 2nd Annual Hand-Made Holiday night on Wednesday, 12/14/16. 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 12/9.

There is a limited number of tickets available so be sure to order your tickets early.

The January Challenge is coming soon! Have you clipped and saved BoxTops and Labels for Education? Have you asked your family, friends, and neighbors to clip and save? Look for a notice about the January Challenge to go home in January.

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

Alison Milobar, PTO President
geptopresident@yahoo.com

We Are A Leader in Me School!

Golden Empire is in the initial stages of implementing The Leader in Me program where students are taught and practice the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. The Leader in Me program (TLIM) empowers young people to make positive, effective, and responsible choices by introducing and reinforcing the 7 Habits, a set of leadership and life skills from Stephen Covey's book The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People.

Your student is embarking on an exciting journey and our hope is that you will ask your student how he/she is doing along the way. Having your student re-teach the content to you will give him/her an even deeper understanding and will give both of you an opportunity to learn together! When taught and practiced in a school environment, these 7 habits have been proven to improve academic engagement, comprehension, and performance by strengthening individual work habits and improving social interactions. They help improve student performance and support school success by helping to foster the qualities of independence (goal-setting, organization, time management, and planning); interdependence (teamwork, conflict management, creativity, and analytical skills); and renewal (fun, desire to learn, and good health & hygiene).

The staff at Golden Empire has made the commitment to model and implement the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People in order to provide a caring and nurturing learning environment for our students. Teaching students and developing leaders is what we do! Through the teaching of the 7 habits, our staff is working together with students to create a school that maintains the dignity of children through productive interactions while fostering positive relationships with parents and other community members.

Each month we will focus on one of the seven habits to help our families become more familiar with the habits. Last month we introduced Habit 1—Be Proactive. We will continue with Habit 2.



Would you start a trip without knowing where you are going? Knowing what you trying to accomplish directs all the choices on the way.

Habit 2 is Begin with the End in Mind - Think about how you want something to turn out before you start it. Goal setting is an important skill for success. Set a goal. Then, break it down into small manageable pieces. A great example is a puzzle. You study the picture. Then, you sort pieces. Perhaps you'll do the edge first. Next, you may find all the pieces of one color, and so on step-by-step until it is complete.

Ways to apply at home:

- Point out examples. Share stories from your life, or even your day at work, where you had a goal or task that you accomplished. What steps did you take to accomplish it? How did breaking it down make it easier? Point out examples from your child's life such as riding a bike, tying shoes, or another skill.
- Create a goal. Is there something your child wants that s/he can work for? Better reading skills, a day with a parent, a new toy or game? Help your child set the goal and define steps they can take to achieve it. Make sure it is attainable to create a positive experience.
- Look to the future. From the time they are small, adults ask kids, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" Help your child identify an interest and then encourage activities, skills, books, or other opportunities that support that interest. Show them how these little steps can lead them to greater opportunities to use this interest in a variety ways or careers in their adult life. They very well may change their mind, but they will know you support them.
- Family Mission Statement. What kind of family do you want to have? What does your family value? What is your ultimate goal? Discussing it as a family and putting it in writing can help lead the whole family in a more positive direction. It can be simple: "We are kind to each other all the time so everyone will always like coming to our home." Or it can be a paragraph. Whatever sums up your family and creates a positive picture everyone can feel a part of. Be sure to include everyone in your family in the process of creating the mission statement.

Words to use:

Reminder: It is important to use a non-judgmental tone. You are inviting your child to think for themselves and share their ideas, views and conclusions with you.

- "What do you plan on this being when you are finished?"
- "Can we break this into more manageable steps?"
- "Do you need anything from me in order for you to be successful?"
- "What other steps do we need to take to reach this goal?"
- "Well, what do you want more, this (immediate) or your goal of (child's goal?)"

December and January Calendar of Events

Day	Date	Time	Event / Activity	Location
Thurs-Fri Mon-Fri	12/1-12/9		Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences Minimum Day Dismissal – Kind. 11:35am 1 st -3 rd 12:10pm and 4 th -6 th 12:19pm	Classroom
Thursday	12/1	12:45-2:15pm	Basketball Tryouts (must turn in permission slip by 12/1/16)	Blacktop
Friday	12/2		Last day of 1 st Trimester	
Monday	12/5		First day of 2 nd Trimester	
Thursday	12/8	12:45-2:15pm	Basketball Tryouts (must turn in permission slip by 12/1/16)	Blacktop
Monday	12/12	12:50pm	Spelling Bee	MPR
Monday	12/12	2:30pm	PTO Meeting	Library
Wednesday	12/14		1 st Trimester Perfect Attendance Ice Cream Social	MPR
Wednesday	12/14	6:00-8:00pm	Hand Made Holiday Night	MPR
Thursday	12/15		1 st Trimester No Citation Assembly	MPR
Friday	12/16	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	MPR
Friday	12/16	2:10-3:10pm	Garden Club (for enrolled 3 rd -6 th graders)	Library
Mon-Tues	12/19-20	All Day	Puberty Education Parent Review	Nurse's Office
Wednesday	12/21		5 th Grade Puberty Education	Classroom
Thursday	12/22		6 th Grade Puberty Education	Classroom
Friday	12/23		Pajama Spirit Day	
Mon-Fri	12/24-1/8		Winter Break	
Monday	1/9/17	8:00am	School Resumes	Classroom
Monday	1/9	2:30pm	PTO Meeting	Library
Mon-Tues	1/9-1/10		Hearing & Vision Screening for Kindergarten, 2 nd grade, & 5 th grade	
Thursday	1/12		Pennies for Patients Assembly	
Monday	1/16		No School – Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday	
Tuesday	1/17		Kindergarten Enrollment for Fall 2017 Begins and continues through 1/31/17	School Office
Tuesday	1/24	6:00-7:15pm	Kindergarten APTT Meeting	MPR
Wednesday	1/25	6:30-8:00pm	Family Science Night	MPR
Friday	1/27	12:50pm	Geography Bee	MPR

