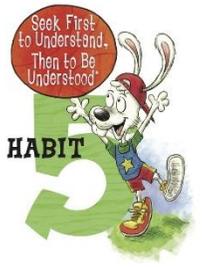




# THE EAGLE EXPRESS



Golden Empire Elementary School ★ 9045 Canberra Drive ★ Sacramento ★ 916.395.4580  
Sacramento City Unified School District ★ www.goldenempire.scusd.edu  
Volume 13, Issue 6 ★ March 2017

## Soaring To New Heights, Together!



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 17 and continue through March 24. 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 Drive 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

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## Mrs. Perry's Library News

A big thank you to all the students (and parents😊) who participated in Library Book Bingo. It was fun for all. If your student is in 3<sup>rd</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> grade and did not participate, encourage them to do so next year. Library Book Bingo happens every January and goes for 8 weeks to give everyone a chance to win.

If you have younger students, encourage them to read by reading with them every day. Twenty minutes is a small amount of time and it will be so worth it! By the time they are 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and can play Library Book BINGO, they will be ready.

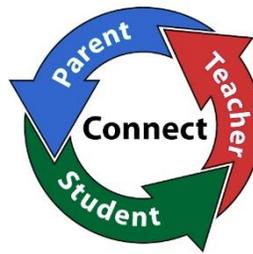
We will be updating our library system this year. In preparation for this, all library books need to be returned to the library during the week of March 13-17. With all of the library books back, the library will be closed for three days, March 20-22, to scan all the books into our new Destiny Library System. Please make sure your students take care of their library books and know where they are so they can be returned on time.

Thank you for all the support you give your students. Reading is such an important skill and one that carries through every aspect of their lives. If you do not have a library card for the local County Library, be sure you take advantage of this great resource. Golden Empire is a small library and we have 600 students. Remember, reading can take you anywhere!



## What is Academic Talent Search?

Academic Talent Search (ATS) is a non-profit organization sponsored by CSU, Sacramento (Sacramento State). ATS provides educational experiences that are mentally stimulating, fast-paced, fun & geared for 4<sup>th</sup>–9<sup>th</sup> grade students. Over 2,400 students attend ATS each summer. Students accelerate their learning in traditional subjects like math & explore new topics not available in regular school. ATS teaching staff includes University faculty, community college professors, public/private school instructors & industry professionals. Students take a qualifying test to determine appropriate placement in the summer courses (this already occurred here @ Golden Empire, but you can contact the ATS office at 916. 278.7032 for the next testing date). Financial aid is available. Visit [www.csus.edu/coe/ats/](http://www.csus.edu/coe/ats/) for more information.



## Make the Most of Parent, Student & Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences are great opportunities for teachers to focus entirely on parent communication. Here are some helpful tips that will make the most of your parent-teacher-student conference:

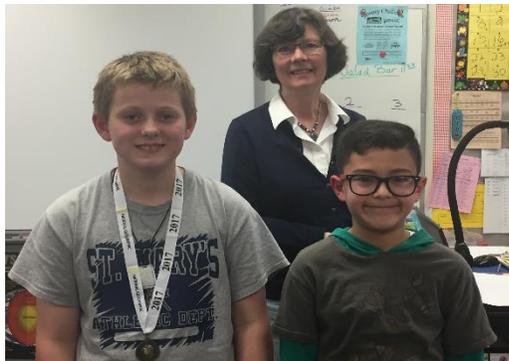
- ★ Bring your student! Most teachers have your child help lead the conference. Your child knows the routines and her/his strengths and areas for improvement. Let her be a part of this important meeting!
- ★ Learn about your child's progress. It's important to find out how your child is progressing academically as well as how he interacts with his peers, if he participates in class and if he is well behaved. Listen carefully to what your child's teacher says, and ask yourself if you note similar patterns at home.
- ★ Share your insights with your child's teacher. A conference is a good opportunity to hear from your child's teacher, and you can give the teacher valuable information that could help your child learn more effectively.
- ★ Discuss your child's strengths and challenges. Through comparing areas where your child excels with areas in need of improvement, you can identify ways to support your child's learning at home.
- ★ Ask questions. This is one of the most important aspects of a successful conference. Such as: How much time should my child spend on homework each night? How can I reinforce classroom lessons at home? What are some activities, games or other strategies that I can use to further my child's learning at home? How can I stay connected? What are some ways I can keep track of my child's progress, assignments and activities?

Do your best to make the most of your parent-teacher-student conference. The more informed you become, the better you, your child and your child's teacher can work together as a successful team.

# Do You Know Your Geography as Well as Ethan?

## Meet Our 2017 Geography Bee Winner

On January 27, Golden Empire held its annual Geography Bee, coordinated by 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

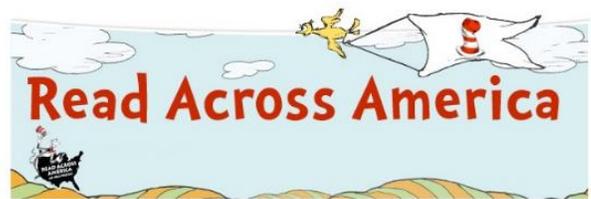


We had fierce competition here at Golden Empire, so fierce that the final 5 contestants had to wait and finish the competition the following Monday! Our second runner-up was Nicolas Gonzalez, a 4<sup>th</sup> grade student from Mrs. Johnson's class. Our 2017 Geography Bee winner is 6<sup>th</sup> grader Ethan Orr from Ms. Engstrom's class. Congratulations Ethan!!

Want to test your geographic knowledge? Try these questions taken from the Geography Bee. Answers are below

1. Which of the following is not a name for a rotating storm: A. typhoon B. monsoon C. hurricane
2. Which state was covered by glaciers during the last ice age? A. Vermont B. North Carolina C. Kansas
3. The Anguilla Cays, part of the Bahamas, lie north of the Nicholas Channel about 50 miles from which island? A. Cuba B. Puerto Rico C. Jamaica
4. The St. Lawrence River flows out of the easternmost of the Great Lakes. Name this lake?
5. An emir is the head of state in which country? A. Kuwait B. Indonesia C. China

1. B. Monsoon, 2. A. Vermont, 3. A. Cuba, 4. Lake Ontario, 5. A. Kuwait



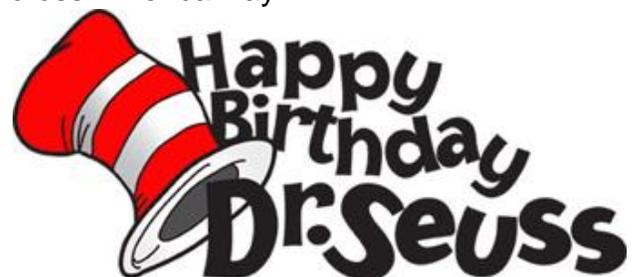
Read Across America is an initiative on reading created by the National Education Association. A major component of the project is National Read Across America Day, an observance in the United States held on the school day closest to March 2, the birthday of Dr. Seuss. Read Across America Day is a day 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!



# Preparing for Spring State Testing—The CAASPP



California Assessment of  
Student Performance and Progress

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 5<sup>th</sup> grade science (part of the old STAR system, which are state-normed).

## What are the Smarter Balanced Assessments?

The Smarter Balanced assessments are computer-based tests that measure student knowledge of California's English language arts/literacy and mathematics standards. Smarter Balanced Assessments are part of the testing program called the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP).

## What will the Smarter Balanced tests measure?

Smarter Balanced tests provide one measure of student knowledge of the subject matter, critical thinking, analytical writing, and problem solving skills they need to prepare for and succeed in today's world. These assessments provide important information as to whether students are on track to pursue college and career by the time they graduate from high school. The tests provide timely and actionable student information so that teachers and schools can adjust and improve teaching.

## 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 24 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.

## Second Trimester Awards Assemblies

Our Awards Assemblies will take place on March 24 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 - 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grades  
9:15am - 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grades  
10:15am - 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grades



## What about 5<sup>th</sup> graders taking the Science test?

California Science Tests (CAST) will be piloted in spring 2017. All students enrolled in 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be administered the pilot test. This new assessment is aligned with the California Next Generation Science Standards. The California Standards Test (CST) will no longer be administered.

## How can I learn more about these tests?

To learn more about these tests, visit CDE's Test Score Guide Web site at <http://www.testscoreguide.org/ca>, which provides informative guides and test score descriptions as well as sample test items at different levels of difficulty. Another great resource is the Practice and Training Tests, which can be found on the CDE's Smarter Balanced Practice and Training Tests Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/practicetest.asp>. Here, parents can experience the kinds of questions that students will encounter on the tests.

## Will parents/guardians receive individual score reports?

Following the spring 2017 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.

## Minimum Day Schedule Begins March 17



Minimum days are  
from March 17 - March 24.

Please review the schedule:  
Kindergarten - 11:35am  
Primary Dismissal - 12:10pm  
Inter. Dismissal - 12:19pm

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

## Golden Empire Students Prepare for 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, 2<sup>nd</sup>—6<sup>th</sup> grade students will take a test consisting of 100 problems. Second graders will have 6 minutes, 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will have 5 minutes, 4<sup>th</sup> graders will have 4 minutes and 5<sup>th</sup>—6<sup>th</sup> 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 (2<sup>nd</sup>—6<sup>th</sup>) 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 M<sup>3</sup>!

## More Time for Reading!

We are thrilled to share that our school library is open every morning, from 7:30—8 am! Students can come to the library each morning before school instead of sitting in the cafeteria. Or, after the students eat breakfast, they can then go to the library to read or browse for new library books. We are so excited to offer this opportunity to our students and are very thankful to Mrs. Perry for her time and efforts. We hope your student will access our library before the start of school!



## We Need Your Support for GE'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.

Students Victoria Alfiche, Braydon Barnum, Mazzy Creeger, Jerimiah Dawson, Nexalize Esquilin, Alexander Etheridge, Ayden Friedenbloom, Edward Honcharuk, Marquiece Johns, Ryan Jones, King Pridgett, Cameron Quan, Elizabeth Turner, Manny Uppal, Ryan Wilson, and Cameron Williams are team members, with Brandon Barnum as our Coach.

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!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Playing Against...</u>
Tues., 3/7	3:30 pm	Sequoia
Tues., 3/14	3:30 pm	Abraham Lincoln
Wed., 3/22	4:15 pm	Leonardo da Vinci
Tues., 3/28	4:15 pm	Isador Cohen



## Thank You for Being So "Golden!"

★ To Jenn Wilson for all of her help in organizing and facilitating our Annual Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction. Thanks to the Golden Empire Community, we raised \$4630 for our school's PTO. These funds will be used for field trips, classroom enrichment resources, and for funding our school band. Thank you all for your generosity!

★ To all the businesses, companies, and organizations that donated to our Silent Auction. You are wonderful and generous!

★ To Jas Singh for updating our Excellent Eagle Effort board!

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



## Internment or Captivity?

*A Special Contribution by 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Ethan Orr*

On February 3, 2017, numerous students from Golden Empire Elementary with ages ranging from 10-12 were taken in buses and cars to a museum to be told about Japanese Americans who were taken from their homes in trains, buses, and cars to internment camps. At the California Museum the 5th and 6th graders were taught about Japanese Internment from people who were in the Japanese Internment Camps.

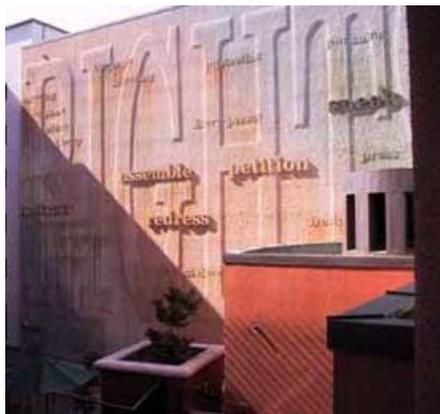


The students learned that these so-called “camps” were actually more like prisons. They were fed awful food, like in prison. They crammed 4 people into a single room, like in prison. They still got to play sports, like in prison. They could barely

bring anything with them, like in prison. They had awful bathrooms (which were actually worse than most prisons’ bathrooms), and if you didn’t use them, that’s what the pot chamber was for. I think you get the idea. The only major difference was that the Japanese Americans got to move around a little more. Eventually, they were allowed to get jobs, but they were only paid \$19 a month, which was nothing near substantial, even with money amount changes. “I thought it was interesting that the Land of the Free would perform such a captivating act,” said Logan Delgado, a 5th grader in Ms. Engstrom’s Class.

Although the Japanese Internment was the biggest part of the trip, there were other things there too. There is a giant wall with motivating words. The word “Speak” was falling out, because they want you to speak, out. There is an electronic room with cool games, including one game in particular that makes you work together to try to get a ball in a hole. There were others that let your shadow hit bad things into one crate, and good things in the other. Another game made you help cartoon kids climb up a wall, and you had to give them the things they needed: attention, exercise, education, etc. Sixth grade student Edward Honcharuk said, “The games were extremely fun.”

There’s also a room that was filled with famous people’s costumes. They had Indiana Jones’ outfit, a famous snowboarder’s, and an astronaut’s. However, some of the costumes were taken down because of renovations. Some students were disappointed. There are also many other cool things there, but to discover them, you’ll have to go there yourself!



Many thanks to Mrs. Brown 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 \$2626.45! This is the most Golden Empire students have ever donated!

The intermediate class which raised the most amount of money was Mr. Snider’s class, with over \$348.00! The primary class who raised the most amount of money was Mrs. Bone’s class, with a total of \$241.03. Wow!

Special recognition goes out to Mr. DaCastello’s class, which raised over \$240.00 with only 16 students! Way to go, students!

Congratulations, students and families, 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. The Lost and Found rack is located in the Multi-Purpose Room. 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.

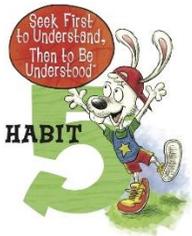
# We Are A Leader in Me School!

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 4—Think Win-Win. We will continue with Habit 5.



*Wouldn't it be great if they "just listened?"*

Habit 5 is **Seek First to Understand, Then to be Understood** - "Listen first. Talk second." Too often instead of really listening, we are busy forming our response in our mind. This Habit is about not just hearing with our ears, but looking at body language with our eyes, and using our hearts as well. We listen to understand who that person is, how they feel about something, and how they view the world.

## Ways to Apply at Home

- **Pretend Listening.** Have your child try to tell you something while you are doing something else. "Pretend listen." (Uh-huh. That's nice.) Talk to them about how that felt. Have them tell you again while you give your child your full attention. Now switch. Have them play or draw while you talk. Then have them really listen. Talk about how it felt for you and them. Remind your child this kind of listening is an example of Think Win-Win.
- **What Feeling?** Take turns acting out feelings (happy, sad, bored, hurt, angry, hungry, etc.) without words. Try using appropriate actions rather than exaggerations.
- **Repeat.** Try saying the phrase "I didn't say you did it" varying the tone of voice and emphasizing a different word each time and discuss the way it alters the meaning.
- **Echo.** (For older kids and adults). Do you have an issue with your spouse or teen? Go to them and say, "Help me understand your point of view on this." Then really listen without interrupting. When they finish, repeat in your own words what you heard. Ask, "Is that right? Is there more?" When they feel heard then ask, "May I share how I feel about this?" Make sure to voice your concerns in a way that acknowledges the other person's value using "I" statements.

## Words to use:

- "So if I understand, you are saying \_\_\_\_\_"
- "Help me understand your point of view."
- "It seems like you are distracted. Is there a better time for me to share this with you?"
- "Is now a good time for me to share a concern I have?"
- "Excuse me, (young child.) Are you listening or pretend listening?"
- "What does your heart think she meant when she said that?"
- "I am concerned when I see (you yell at your sister/unfinished homework/etc.) because I know that you are a good kid. Last week you put away the dishes without even being asked. You are usually so thoughtful. Help me understand what is going on here."

Seeking to understand may not be fast, but it pays huge dividends in building relationships.

# March & April Calendar of Events

Day	Date	Time	Event / Activity	Location
<b>Dr. Seuss Spirit Week</b>				
Wed-Fri	3/1-3		Wed - Cat in the Hat Day (Crazy Hat) Thurs - Whoville Day (Crazy Hair) Fri - The Places You'll Go Day (College Shirt)	Classroom
Wednesday	3/1	6:00-7:00pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade APTT Meeting	Library
Thursday	3/2		Read Across America Day	Classroom
Friday	3/3	Lunch Time	Take Your Parent to Lunch Day 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> : 11:30-12:10pm 4 <sup>th</sup> : 11:45-12:25pm    1 <sup>st</sup> : 11:55-12:45pm 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> : 12:05-12:55pm	Grass Quad
Tuesday	3/7	3:30pm	GE Basketball Team vs. Sequoia	Einstein MS
Monday	3/13	2:30pm	PTO Meeting	Library
Tuesday	3/14	5:00pm	GE Basketball Team vs. Lincoln	Einstein MS
Thursday	3/16	5:00-7:30pm	Spring Scholastic Book Fair	MPR
Friday	3/17		Luck o' the Irish Spirit Day	Classroom
Fri Mon-Fri	3/17-24		Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences Minimum Day Dismissal – Kind. 11:35am 1 <sup>st</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> 12:10pm and 4 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> 12:19pm	Classroom
Tuesday	3/22	4:15pm	GE Basketball Team vs. LDV	Einstein MS
Friday	3/24	8:15am 9:15am 10:15am	3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> - Trimester Awards Assembly 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> - Trimester Awards Assembly 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Trimester Awards Assembly	MPR
Tuesday	3/28	4:15pm	GE Basketball Team vs. Cohen	Einstein MS
Friday	3/17		Silly Sock & Slipper Spirit Day	Classroom
Friday	3/31	8:30am	March Multiplication Madness	Classroom
Monday	4/3	2:30pm	PTO Meeting	Library
Wednesday	4/5		Spring Picture Day	
Thursday	4/6	5:00-7:00pm	McTeacher's Night	Watt Ave & Manlove Rd
Friday	4/7		Class Colors Spirit Day	Classroom
Friday	4/7	9:00am	Poetry Jam	MPR
Friday	4/7	Lunch Time	Take Your Parent to Lunch Day 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> : 11:30-12:10pm 4 <sup>th</sup> : 11:45-12:25pm    1 <sup>st</sup> : 11:55-12:45pm 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> : 12:05-12:55pm	Grass Quad
Mon-Fri	4/10-14		Spring Break – No School	
Monday	4/17	8:00am	School resumes at 8:00am	Classroom
Friday	4/21		Flower Power & Tie Die Spirit Day	Classroom
Monday	4/24		CAASPP Testing Begins	Classroom
Wednesday	4/26	6:30-8:00pm	Family Picnic & Games Night	MPR

