



# THE EAGLE EXPRESS

The  
**Leader**  
in Me™

Golden Empire Elementary School ★ 9045 Canberra Drive ★ Sacramento ★ 916.395.4580  
Sacramento City Unified School District ★ [www.goldenempire.scusd.edu](http://www.goldenempire.scusd.edu)  
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## Soaring To New Heights, Together!



Happy October! We have been in school for 21 days and all classes are in full swing. This is usually the month where I share our school academic achievement data/test scores with the Golden Empire community. Back in May, students in grades 3-6 took the CAASPP Test (California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress) and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students took the CST Science Test. The new tests

focus on critical thinking and problem solving. In English language arts, students show evidence from what they are reading to support their conclusions. In math, students solve real-world problems and explain their thinking. Skills build on each other in successive grades to ensure students are prepared for college and career. The following performance levels are used to measure student achievement: Exceeding Standards, Meeting Standards, Nearly Meeting Standards, and Not Meeting Standards.

While the school data is still trickling in, I do have some basic data to report out. Golden Empire students performing at the exceeding and met achievement levels are higher than the district's average: 51% in ELA and 48% in math. (The District average is 39% in ELA and 31% in math). Comparatively, our student test scores from last year were 43% in ELA and 39% in math. Exciting gains! I am very proud of our students' and teachers' work. Also exciting is our 5<sup>th</sup> grade science scores: 73% of our students performed at the advanced and proficient levels! While we are still awaiting the California Department of Education to release all science scores, we are ranked #6 in the district for the greatest % of students scoring at or above grade level in both ELA and Math. That is phenomenal work! We are the highest performing school in the Eastern Area of the school district! This is very exciting news. It is a testament to Golden Empire's instructional equation: high expectations + excellent instruction + family involvement = increased student achievement!

Your student's scores were mailed out in July. Please review the score sheet. Should you have any questions, talk with your student's teacher or see me. Parent Guides for the CAASPP assessments are available on the district's website by grade span at: <http://www.scusd.edu/california-assessment-student-performance-and-progress-caaspp>. These guides include an overview of testing and sample questions.

It was wonderful seeing so many of our parents and families at the Coffee with the Principal, the Academic Parent Teacher Team meetings and Back to School Night. The teachers appreciate you taking your time to learn more about Golden Empire's homework policies and proper student behavior. Here's to another wonderful school year!

A big thank you to families for reviewing school rules and procedures with your children. We had a discipline assembly in September and students have been very responsive in following teachers' and yard duties' directions, walking quietly, and lining up. The students are looking forward to our "No Citation Assembly," honoring students with good behavior. Your support of classroom rules makes it easier for our teachers to focus on instruction.

Because of our academic focus, no school-wide Halloween activities are planned at Golden Empire. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Thank you for being a part of the Golden Empire School Family! If I can be of service to you, contact me by email or phone, or just stop by.

~ Dr. Eister, Principal

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## Stay Informed!

### *We Need Your Email & Telephone Numbers!*

Did you know that the school sends out a weekly email message with the week's school events? If you are not receiving these emails, we do not have your current email address. Also, CALIFORNIA EDUCATION CODE 49408 states "For the protection of a pupil's health and welfare, the governing board of a school district will require the parent or legal guardian of a pupil to keep current at the pupil's school of attendance, emergency information including the home address and telephone number, and business address and telephone number of the parents or guardian, and the name, address and telephone number of a relative or friend who is authorized to care for the pupil in any emergency situation if the parent or legal guardian cannot be reached."

Golden Empire requires parents/guardians to update students' emergency cards when there is a change of email, telephone numbers or address. When the school sends out Infinite Campus messages or emergency alerts to all parents, the messages are sent to the phone numbers you provide us on the emergency card. Messages are undeliverable to "bad numbers" or email addresses.



## A BIG Welcome to New Staff!

With the start of a new school year, we want to welcome new staff. We welcome our new 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, **Ms. Lyndsay Reynolds**. Ms. Reynolds is a new teacher and we welcome her to our amazing teaching staff! Kindergarten teacher, **Ms. Margaret Stadel**, is also a new teacher to Golden Empire, coming from John Sloat Elementary. We also welcome new PE teacher **Mrs. Susan Richardson** who comes to us from Caleb Greenwood Elementary. And while not new to Golden Empire, **Mrs. Alison Milobar** is our new office manager, replacing Linda Thorpe who retired this past June. You all know Alison, as she is our former attendance clerk, our current PTO President, and Golden Empire parent! She's busy! We also welcome **Mrs. Joan Orr**, who replaces Alison in the attendance clerk role. **Mrs. Rachel Vaughn** is our new 4<sup>th</sup> R Coordinator, filling in for Carl Gayle who is recovering from an illness. And **Miss Madison Griffin** is a teacher candidate, working besides 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher Mrs. Brown to further her studies as an elementary school teacher. We welcome these new staff members to Golden Empire!



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](http://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 1 week, 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 or dental appointment please be sure to get an office note to excuse his/her absence. You can also fax this note to us as 916.228-5838.

## Use Our Convenient Drop-Off & 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 keep traffic flowing smoothly. We appreciate your help!

# The Leader in Me™

Congratulations to us! Golden Empire is now a Leader in Me school. This past May, after engaging in a very rigorous grant application process, we learned that we received an \$80,000 grant to implement this school climate and leadership model. You will learn more about the Leader in Me during parent meetings, newsletters, and your child's discussions, but in the meantime, here is a bit more information about the program.

The Leader in Me is a whole-school transformation model and process—developed in partnership with educators—that empowers students with the leadership and life skills they need to thrive in the 21st century. It is based on timeless principles and practices of personal, interpersonal, and organizational effectiveness. Distinct in several ways, The Leader in Me starts from a powerful premise—every child possesses unique strengths and has the ability to be a leader—which shapes the views of staff to value and develop the whole child. The process integrates leadership development into existing programs, curricula and traditions and serves as a foundational operating system for the school, improving relationships, transforming culture, and highly motivating staff and students. All stakeholders are impacted by The Leader in Me, starting with the staff of a school, then expanding to students, their families, and the community at large. This inside-out approach is a key ingredient to successfully creating positive change in a school.

The Leader in Me utilizes and integrates several leadership, social-emotional learning, quality, and educational models and processes from past and current thought leaders including The 4 Imperatives of Great Leaders and The 4 Disciplines of Execution. The process includes student participation in goal setting, data tracking, leadership roles, student-led conferences, leadership environments, and leadership events. The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People is also a key component of the overall Leader in Me process and is a synthesis of universal, timeless principles of personal, interpersonal, and organizational effectiveness such as responsibility, vision, integrity, teamwork, collaboration, and renewal, which are secular in nature and common to all people and cultures.

The Leader in Me includes training on establishing a vision for the school, goal setting, data tracking, and personal-accountability systems and is aligned with best-in-class content and concepts practiced by global education thought leaders. The Leader in Me provides a logical, sequential, and balanced process to help schools proactively design a culture that reflects their vision of their ideal school. This shared leadership increases engagement and enables students, staff, and families to be self-confident and self-reliant, work effectively with others, and make meaningful contributions.

The Leader in Me differs from other whole-school transformation processes in that it offers a holistic, school wide experience for staff, students, and parents, and creates a common language and culture within the school. The leadership principles and lessons are not taught as a curriculum, but instead are incorporated into coursework, traditions, systems, and culture.

The Leader in Me helps students develop the skills and self-confidence they need to lead their lives and succeed in school and beyond. Specifically, The Leader in Me focuses on students learning the following 21st century skills:

- Student self-confidence
- Teamwork
- Initiative
- Responsibility
- Creativity
- Communication
- Social etiquette
- Self-direction
- Leadership
- Problem solving

Learn more about The Leader in Me at [www.theleaderinme.org](http://www.theleaderinme.org).



## Free and Reduced Lunches

This is a reminder that you need to fill out a new Free/Reduced Lunch Form for your child/children every school year. Without this form, students are charged full price for each lunch—there is no grace period. Even if you do not intend to use this service and you qualify, please take the time to fill out a form and turn it in. As a Title 1 school much of our funding is based on the number of students that qualify for free or reduced lunch, so it is very important to have every eligible family in the system. Also, this year, class size is determined by this percentage rate AND our school will qualify for bonus money if 90% of our families return the form! If you have not yet applied for this year's meals, please pick up an application in the office or you can complete one online at <http://mealapp.scusd.edu/fma/>. The deadline to have these forms turned in is October 8.

## October Challenge



Now is the time to turn in your BoxTops and Labels for Education! The Challenge ends 10/31.

## What is a GATE Cluster Model?



Golden Empire Elementary has implemented the "GATE Cluster" model to provide specialized education for students who have been identified as "gifted and talented" (GATE). These students are clustered in a classroom where the teacher has had training in differentiating instruction for GATE students. While all teachers on our staff have been trained in this type of differentiation, clustering the GATE students in a classroom provides them with opportunity to be in a unique setting where they can challenge and be challenged by like-minded students, and they can learn from the strengths of all types of learners.

Students in our GATE Cluster classrooms learn grade and age level appropriate California State Standards but also receive differentiated instruction within those standards. Like their fellow students, they may be learning about a specific period of time in history or mastering a math concept, but GATE identified students will be learning this concept in a different way or producing a product that is at a different level than that of their peers. Students are regularly encouraged to use their talents to show their understanding in novel ways and using depth and complexity, offer explanations and make out-of-the-box connections, find out about subjects in great detail, explore relationships between concepts using comparing and contrasting, and much more. Students are never asked to "do more" but are rather asked to do "differently" as to challenge them to their maximum extent. To that end, some of the products students have created are debates, musical performances, computer products, videos, newspapers, design (graphic and otherwise), dramatic monologues, oral histories, simulations, and much more. Drop by to visit the intermediate GATE classrooms to learn more!

## Help Students Learn Responsibility

In addition to academic standards, our teachers and staff are training Golden Empire students to be responsible for their own school work and belongings. Please support us by letting your child understand the logical consequences of leaving homework or textbooks at school. As you know, our custodial time has been cut severely due to budget constraints. Every interruption jeopardizes our attempts to keep our school campus clean and our community healthy. Please understand our school custodian cannot open classrooms after hours.





## Kindergarten Teacher Mrs. Randazzo Receives Award

### *She's ABC 10's Teacher of the Month!*

Mrs. Randazzo, one of our amazing kindergarten teachers, was selected by ABC 10 as the "Teacher of the Month" for September.

Mrs. Randazzo was filmed by News10 reporters during class time on September 13. She was then interviewed and photographed by News10 and district communications staff. During the filming, imagine Mrs. Randazzo's surprise when she was presented a check for \$1,000 from Schools Financial Credit Union. She will now be considered for the station's Teacher of the Year prize which comes with a \$5,000 prize.

Mrs. Randazzo has been teaching for 25 years and is a champion for early learning and literacy. Mrs. Randazzo was recognized for her excellent teaching skills and for incorporating music and songs into the kindergarten experience.

Mrs. Randazzo embraces parent involvement, being very active with the Parent Teacher Home Visit Project and Academic Parent Teacher Team process. Congratulations, Mrs. Randazzo! We are so proud of you!



## GOLDEN EMPIRE'S



### Take Your Parents 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.

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.

Our next Parent Lunchtime will be Friday, October 7. Parents, please remember to sign-in the office first. We look forward to seeing you there!

Lunch times are as follows:

- 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grades: 11:30am-12:10pm
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade: 11:45am-12:25pm
- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade: 11:55am-12:45pm
- 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Grades: 12:05-12:55pm

Wednesday, October 12, 2016



This "FUN"draiser raises money to support school programs like band and assemblies, as well as provide classroom and teaching supplies, brag tags, field trips and much more!

There are many incentives for our students to participate. Students can earn prize packs based on the amount of pledge money collected, top lap runners with at least \$1 in pledges collected are entered into a drawing for new running shoes, and the top two pledge earning classes (K-3, 4-6) earn a pizza party.

Questions?? Please email Jenn Wilson at [jennerpoo@hotmail.com](mailto:jennerpoo@hotmail.com) or call (916) 719-9606



# Back to School: Avoid Morning Meltdown

*Here's How the Whole Family Can Get Organized for the Busy Year Ahead*



Getting ready to go back to school is a family affair, requiring everyone to get organized. Here are some tips to help everyone in your household avoid leaving important tasks until the last minute.

- Update school emergency contact and health information for the coming year. Check with your emergency contacts and make sure they are still available for back up. Keep a copy of your finished form to speed up the process next year.
- As you read through all the school information, mark important dates (such as Back-to-School Night, parent-teacher conference week and school holidays) on the family calendar.

•Start a folder for school newsletters and other papers and establish a place where you will keep them so that you can easily find and refer to them if necessary. You might need both a file folder for papers and an electronic one for email communications.

•Establish a "Get Ready the Night Before" policy. Pick clothes for the next day and pack the backpack every evening before bedtime and you'll save precious time in the morning. Leave backpacks and other items you want to take with you by the front door or in an established place so that you won't forget anything in the morning.

**Set Priorities and Schedules** - To make the best use of your time and keep life from being harried, think about priorities for family members and then schedule them into the week.

**For Parents** - Determine how much time you can give to the school each month as a volunteer and involved parent: in the classroom, on field trips, for fundraising events and on school-wide committees.

**For the Family** - Start a family calendar in a common area where each family member can see it and write down their activities.

**For Children** - Before school begins, discuss what extracurricular activities your child will participate in. If your child needs a little extra encouragement to join band or to prepare a speech for Student Council Elections, now is the time to go over the benefits of these activities. Some classes fill up quickly, so it's a good idea to sign up early to avoid disappointment. However, if your child needs to have limits set, have her pick her favorite activities and forgo the rest. Be realistic and don't fall victim to over-programming. Make sure to leave enough time to do homework and for family time.

**Prepare for the Homework Ahead** - Having set routines and a place to study at home will make it easier for your child to be organized and successful at school.

•Set up a well-lit, quiet place with a good work surface to do homework. Try to keep this place dedicated to homework and free of other clutter.

•Establish a regular homework time. This will help your student to complete assignments on time.

•Discourage distractions such as television, video games, and the Internet or phone conversations during homework time.



Have you been clipping and saving BoxTops for Education and Labels for Education coupons? I hope so as it is time for the first Challenge of the year. You are being challenged to turn in as many BoxTops and Labels as you can by October 31<sup>st</sup>. The class with the most BoxTops and Labels will win a 20-minute playground party in November. BoxTops and Labels can be found on hundred of products. Check out <http://www.boxtops4education.com> and <http://www.labelsforeducation.com/> for a complete list of products. Be sure to ask your family, friends, and neighbors to clip and save as well. How many will you turn in this month?

Our annual Jog-A-Thon will be held on Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and determines the budget for all our events and programs. Start talking to your student about how many laps they will try to run and who they will contact for pledges. The completed pledge forms should be returned to your student's classroom on Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. If you have questions about this event or would like to volunteer please contact Jenn Wilson at [jennerpoo@hotmail.com](mailto:jennerpoo@hotmail.com) or (916) 719-9606.

Over 200 students and families sponsored the PTO this year during our Sponsorship Drive. Thank you for your support and donations totaling more than \$1350. Each student whose family sponsored the PTO will receive a PTO brag tag.

Happy Fall,  
Alison Milobar, PTO President - [geptopresident@yahoo.com](mailto:geptopresident@yahoo.com)



## Help Keep Our Students Safe Use the Cone Zone!



Have you noticed the orange cones in front of the school? We are working with the District's Safe Schools Office to ensure that all

students are safe coming and going from school. The cones are helping to remind drivers to be safe, drive slowly, and remember that they are in a school zone—and a "cone zone."

Student drop-off and pick-up times are very busy. We need your help to ensure that students are safe as they walk to and from school. The Sheriff Department is working with us in making sure our students are safe and that traffic rules and regulations are being followed during these busy times. You may see Sheriffs patrolling in front of the school.

With all of us remembering the following steps, we can ensure our students are safe as they walk to and from school:

- Always drive slowly in front of the school, especially when students are in session.
- Our Crosswalk Attendant and Traffic Greeter are there to keep our students safe and help with the flow of traffic. They are school employees--please be respectful of them!
- Do not make U-turns in front of the school—especially in the crosswalk area.
- Never double park when picking up students. This is very dangerous for children and also blocks the traffic flow.
- The Drop Off/Cone Zone is for dropping off/loading of students only. Please do not park here.
- Always practice safe traffic habits yourself—use the crosswalk instead of jaywalking,

Thank you for your help!

# Thank you!

• To our fabulous PTO for welcoming staff back to school with fun welcome back treats!

• To all families who attended the "Coffee with the Principal," Academic Parent Teacher Team Meetings and Back to School Night.

• To an anonymous donor for contributing \$500 to our school to fund our monthly Family Nights.

• To our families who provided the needed supplies for our classrooms.

• To Officer Kennedy, our local Sheriff, for assisting us with before and after school traffic conditions. Please assist us in keeping our students safe!

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



## Join us for dinner on Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-8:00pm

### SCHOOL SPIRIT TASTES GREAT



**25147 Fair Oaks Blvd,  
Sacramento 95825  
(Fair Oaks Blvd & Munroe St)**

**50 % of all sales are donated to the Golden Empire PTO**

Please tell the cashier you are supporting Golden Empire to make sure your purchase counts.

# October and November Calendar of Events

| Day       | Date     | Time        | Event / Activity   | Location                |
|-----------|----------|-------------|--|-------------------------|
| Monday    | 10/3     |             | October BoxTops & Labels for Education Challenge begins  | Classrooms              |
| Friday    | 10/7     | Lunch Time  | Take Your Parent to Lunch Day<br>5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> : 11:30-12:10pm<br>4 <sup>th</sup> : 11:45-12:25pm 1 <sup>st</sup> : 11:55-12:45pm<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> : 12:05-12:55pm | Grass Quad              |
| Saturday  | 10/8     | 4:00-8:00pm | Chipotle Night   | 2517 Fair Oaks Blvd     |
| Monday    | 10/10    | 5:00pm      | PTO Meeting  | Library                 |
| Tuesday   | 10/11    |             | Jog-A-Thon Pledge Forms are due  | Classrooms              |
| Wednesday | 10/12    |             | Jog-A-Thon   | Playground              |
| Friday    | 10/21    | TBD         | Rosemont HS Homecoming Parade  | Meet in front of school |
| Mon-Fri   | 10/24-28 |             | Red Ribbon Week  |                         |
| Wednesday | 10/26    | 6:30-8:00pm | Family Reading Night   | MPR                     |
| Thursday  | 10/27    |             | Jog-A-Thon pledge money is due   | Classrooms              |
| Monday    | 10/31    |             | October BoxTops & Labels for Education Challenge ends  | Classrooms              |
| Wednesday | 11/2     | 5:00-7:30pm | Fall Scholastic Book Fair  | MPR                     |
| Thursday  | 11/3     |             | Jog-A-Thon Game Truck Prize Day  | In front of school      |
| Friday    | 11/4     |             | Dental Education & Screening Day   |                         |
| Friday    | 11/4     |             | Jog-A-Thon Prize Delivery Day  | Classrooms              |
| Friday    | 11/4     |             | Progress notes sent home   | Classrooms              |
| Friday    | 11/4     | Lunch Time  | Take Your Parent to Lunch Day<br>5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> : 11:30-12:10pm<br>4 <sup>th</sup> : 11:45-12:25pm 1 <sup>st</sup> : 11:55-12:45pm<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> : 12:05-12:55pm | Grass Quad              |
| Monday    | 11/7     |             | Fall Picture Retake Day  |                         |
| Tuesday   | 11/8     | 9:00am      | Student Council Election (Grades 4-6)  | MPR                     |
| Friday    | 11/11    |             | No School – Veterans Day   |                         |
| Monday    | 11/14    | 2:30pm      | PTO Meeting  | Library                 |
| Tuesday   | 11/15    | 6:30-8:00pm | Family Math Night  | MPR                     |
| Mon-Fri   | 11/21-25 |             | No School - Thanksgiving Break   |                         |
| Monday    | 11/28    | 8:00am      | School Resumes   |                         |

