Garfield Elementary Newsletter

OCTOBER, 2022

GREETINGS FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Happy Fall! Can you even believe we have been in school for 5 weeks! The students and staff at each of the GMC schools continue to impress. We have so many new things students are learning and yet everyone continues to come to school with a smile and ready for more. We have spent the month of September reconnecting with all of our students and getting to know our new kindergarten friends. We had a lot of fun with our Homecoming



dress up days and festivities and are looking forward to having even more fun in October! As some of you may know, October is anti-bullying month. Many staff and students are choosing to wear blue with positive messaging to promote a healthy school culture. Throughout the month, we will be working hard to promote and educate students on kindness and empathy. By understanding what bullying is, we can work together to prevent it. We also teach students what conflict is vs bullying and sometimes conflict is normal and can be healthy. Learning interpersonal relationships and how to problem solve is a life-long skill that we hope to instill in all students. However, if something is getting in the way of your child's learning, please contact their classroom teacher as soon as possible so we can work as a team to find a solution.

Students will have Parent/Teacher Conferences for three days starting October 17th, just before our MEA Break. These first conferences are important because they provide direction and focus for months to come until our next conferences in March. The focus this early in the year will be more on getting to know you and your child and less on sharing achievement data. Teachers truly welcome an opportunity to meet with parents during conferences to discuss your child's education. While developing rapport and setting goals will be the main thrust of the conference, please feel free to ask questions about social and emotional development, behavior, study skills, and so on

We have begun to practice our different safety drills (fire and lockdown) and students are doing a great job! Please be sure to talk with your child about what they learned to do in these emergency situations. Staff are preparing students in developmentally appropriate ways about the meaning and importance of these drills. Home and school communication is very important, please connect your child's teacher should you have any questions or concerns. Likewise, teachers will be contacting you directly if they have any concerns about progress.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please let me know. We are always here to support, and are looking forward to a wonderful October!

Warmly,

Troy Wunderlich
GMC Principal
twunderlich@alexschools.org

COMMON VOCABULARY

Common Vocabulary

All parents want their child to do well in school. One way to help your child is to help them build their vocabulary. Beginning readers use knowledge about words to help them make sense of what they're reading. The more words a reader knows, the more they are able to comprehend what they're reading or listening to.

Talking to and reading with your child are two terrific ways to help them hear and read new words. Conversations and questions about interesting words are easy, non-threatening ways to get new words into everyday talk. Here are some common vocabulary words we are using at school:

Kindergarten	1st Grade	2nd Grade	3rd Grade	4th Grade	5th Grade	Specials Areas
	personal	Zones of		Active		
author	narrative	Regulation	difference	Listening	area	Finger spell
		Fab Four (Predict, Question,				
		Clarify,		Realistic		
illustrator	listener	Summarize)	genre	Fiction	volume	open syllable
				Factors &		
cover			product	Multiples	native	closed syllable
			Fab Four (Predict,			
			Question,			Steady Beat
whole body			Clarify,	Area &		Rhythm
listener			Summarize)	Perimeter		Patterns
						Whole body listener
						Experiment



CRITICAL BUS DRIVER SHORTAGE

Transportation is short on bus drivers! If you would be interested or know of anyone interested in driving a bus please apply on-line at www.alexschools.org. Or call the transportation department at 320-762-3317.

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR FREE OR REDUCED MEALS?

If your child(ren) was approved for Free or Reduced Meals **last** school year and you haven't yet applied for this year, those benefits will be expiring October 18th.

Families need to reapply for Free or Reduced Meal Benefits each school year.



Paper applications are available at your child's school and may be dropped off there or at our Food & Nutrition Services Office on school days between 7:30 AM and 4:30 PM.

You may also complete an on-line application at **family.wordwareinc.com**.

<u>Did you know?</u> If approved you can also receive discounted sports and activity fees for your students!

FUN RUN RESULTS

CONGRATULATIONS to Ms. Furth's 4th grade class for getting 4th place at the Fun Run! Way to go to all the runners!! Also, CONGRATULATIONS to Austin Meichsner, Ms. Furth's 4th grade class for winning the bike drawing.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

October 7th - Fundraiser Ends

October 10th - Vision and Hearing

October 17th - Conferences 3pm-7pm

October 18th - Conferences 3pm-7pm

October 19th - No School Conferences - 7:30-3:30

October 20-21st - No School MEA Break

October 27th - Picture Retakes

October 27th - Pizza fundraiser pickup at 5:00pm









GARFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



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alexandria.k12.mn.us/element...

