



# The Eagle Times: Elementary School Edition



April 2019 Issue

Gila Crossing Community School

## School Wide News

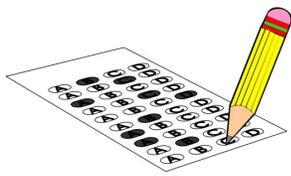
Last Wednesday of the month dismissal is @12:30 pm  
GCCS has updated the school calendar.  
Early dismissal date added; Friday, May 10th, 2019

April 4-Breakfast with the Principal @ 9 am  
April 19-No school-Good Friday  
April 24-Early Dismissal @ 12:30 pm

**AzMerit Testing  
April 1-April 18**

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**NWEA Testing  
April 22-May 3rd**



### Kindergarten

Mrs. Phillips, Ms. Jordan, Mrs. Lewis, Ms. Desiree & Ms. Bahe  
In math we are working with finding patterns on the hundreds chart, counting by tens, counting starting from any given number, and counting to 100. Please practice counting to 100 by ones and tens. In reading we will continue sounding out and blending words. Practicing sight words, and letter sounds. We will continue to read books, simple sentences, and writing sentences. In science we will be doing dinosaur and weather units.  
Ask your child what they learned today!

### Message from the Principal

#### Announcing: The Gila Crossing Memorial Celebration!

As you know, this year marks the final year for Gila Crossing on this campus. It has served as an important symbol of this community and its education for over 100 years!

We want to honor the occasion with a special event. On Friday, May 17th at 9 AM, we (students, staff and community members) will meet in the cafeteria for instructions and a brief orientation. After a few words, we will all walk together from the old campus to the new campus on Pecos.

Student council members and select students will lead and guide the walk, with local law enforcement to direct traffic and provide protection to all who participate.

We invite you to join us! News media and civic leaders will likely attend. Once we arrive at the new school, we will hold a brief ceremony to show our respect for the old school and our appreciation for the new one. More details will follow as it gets closer.

Dr. Taylor

### Elementary School Counseling Update

#### Helping Children Handle Teasing

**\*Gather information.** First, parents should find out some specifics.

**\*Teach appropriate responses** There are many things children can do to respond to teasing without teasing back:

**\*Ignore it.** Parents can teach their children to ignore teasing by turning and **\*Develop a quick tongue.** For walking away without saying a word. example, to the tease "Your mother wears combat boots," children can reply something like, "That's silly. My mother doesn't even own a pair of boots

**\*Practice.** It is important for parents to practice with their children whatever responses they come up with. They should role-play the situation.

**\*Provide lots of love and encouragement.** Parents should make sure they tell their children just how proud they are of them when they attempt to resolve teasing situations.

Happy Springtime  
Ms. McMillan

### 4th Grade

Mrs. Rollins, Mrs. Valencia & Mrs. Munoz

#### Welcome Spring!

We have finally reached testing week/month. It is so important for your children to get a good night's sleep before testing and to arrive at school on time, able to have breakfast and to be in the classroom before we begin tests.

As we go into the last weeks of school we will be looking to assess which students are ready to become 5th graders. We are working on those things that will have them be more prepared to move forward.

Enjoy Spring!

### News from Music by: Mr. Stein

The students have returned to keyboard studies this month. Some of the pieces they are working on include Oh Susanna (2nd grade), Home On The Range (3rd grade), and Kum Bah Yah (4th grade). 1st and 2nd grades are still singing Puff The Magic Dragon and 3rd and 4th grades will continue to sing Michael Row The Boat Ashore.



### FACE Program

**Enroll now!** We have openings for families with children prenatal - 5 in our Home Based FACE Program. **If you enroll you will qualify for our new incentive plan** which may include diapers (1-5 including pull-ups), personal hygiene items for children and adults, children's clothing, and small household items. Center Based is continuing working on kindergarten transition. We will be testing on the CPAA assessment.

### Technology By: Mr. Buckles

Keyboard and mouse skills continue to be the focus for grades K-1. First and second-grade students have been creating Jet Ski games on ABCya.com. This activity reinforces adding numbers at grade level.

Grade levels 3-4 are currently setting end of the year typing goals.

SUMMIT WALL of TESTING updated results continue to show students progress as they become fluent typers. 27 third grade, 20 fourth grade, and 45 second grade student names are on the wall.

### Physical Education by: Ms. Haywood

Guess what seems to be knocking at the door.....

#### WARMER WEATHER!

Please know that I will need the students to remove their jackets if it is too warm outside. I am not sure if the heat is here to stay, but bring your water bottles to class and be prepared to move!

### Math Matters Mr. Murdock & Ms. Fowler

Math Intervention classes will continue after the testing cycle is complete. We are practicing difficult topics on all grade levels and getting students ready for the next grade level.

### 3rd Grade

Ms. Hillis, Ms. Smith, Ms. Garcia & Ms. Janella

April brings AzMerit and NWEA Testing. We will be testing the first three weeks of April with AZMERit and again the first week in May with NWEA testing. Please have students ready for testing with a good night's sleep, let them know they'll do great if they try, and they need to be here on time.

A note about our upcoming field trip and an updated testing calendar has been sent home with students.

A thank you to all the Parents and Guardians that came or called during PTC's.

Have a Happy Spring Season!

### News from the Library Mrs. McQueen & Sara Dillon

Happy Easter!! We will be having some fun with Easter activities. We are reading the story *Tiny the Easter Bunny*. They we are doing a writing activity to see if you can guess what is in the egg. After Easter we will be doing some spring reading and activities.

Happy Reading

### The Reading Corner

Mrs. Bowers & Mrs. Ford

End of year testing is coming up! AzMerit, NWEA, DIBELS

\*Please make sure your child gets about 10 hours of sleep each night and has an alarm set to wake them up. It is important that all students are present and on-time for testing days!

\*Students should eat a nutritious and filling breakfast. Avoid cereals with high sugar which can make children hyper and not able to focus on testing.

\*Keep a positive attitude about testing and emphasize their ability to demonstrate what they have learned rather than the consequences of not passing.

Thank you for your support!

### Special Education

Mr. Twitchell

Reading is vital to school success. Children learn when they make connections between what they hear and what they know. One method parents can use to help make these connections is called a think aloud, where you talk through your thoughts as you read. Here are three ways to use think alouds, with examples from some of our favorite kids' books. Try these ideas to expand learning and to improve reading comprehension. Connect the book to your child's own life experience. Example: *A River Dream* by Allen Say - "This book reminds me of the time my father took me fishing. Do you remember the time we went fishing?"

Connect the book to other books they have read - Example: *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters* by John Steptoe - "This story reminds me of Cinderella. Both stories are about sisters. Do you know any other stories about nice and mean sisters? Let's keep reading to find out other ways the stories are similar."

Connect the book to big ideas/lessons - Example: *Stellaluna* by Janell Cannon - "This story helps me understand that we are all the same in many ways, but it's our differences that make us special."

### 1st Grade

Ms. Almendarez, Ms. Graham, Ms. Gloria, Ms. Madrid

First graders are working hard getting ready for second grade. We still have target skills to learn and take end of the year tests.

In reading we are focusing on comparing and contrasting and author's purpose.

In math we are using place-value to compare two-digit numbers. Parents please continue to read each day with your child-at the least 15 minutes.

We hope our families have a wonderful & blessed Easter.

## 2nd Grade

**Ms. Thomas, Mrs. Jensen, Ms. Molina**

*Greetings, Second Grade Parents! Second Graders are in the last Quarter of the school Year. We will be taking the last NWEA TEST FOR THE YEAR! With that said, we will be reviewing all concepts and skills for reading and math. We also ask the students to keep reading at home to practice for fluency and comprehension! THEY HAVE LEARNED SO MUCH THIS YEAR AND FOR SOME, THEY ARE READY FOR THIRD GRADE! For others they still need to work on certain skill, such as phonics skills, reading practice, comprehension, number facts, place value, and other skills in math that we've covered (time, money, fractions, geometry etc.). We are working closely with these students to help them in these skill areas. If parents have any concerns or questions about anything we're doing at school, please contact us at the school. 550-4834!*

## Culture Corner

**Ms. Parsons  
Skeg Thash  
Kwi Hiosik Mashath  
Xly'a chmpapk**

**APRIL IS UPON US ALREADY!!**  
Students will be busy little bees this coming months. We will be learning about the animals that are coming out of hibernation and about the five tribes peace treaty plus past and present what is different? We can't forget about Easter so they will be doing arts and crafts which is always fun to do!  
As always if you are in the area feel free to stop by and visit us here in Culture!

## News from Garden

**By: Mr. Flores**

### **WE DIG GARDENING**

**April is a good month to prepare your garden beds or any containers for planting. A bed should be about 3 feet wide narrow enough for you to reach the middle from both sides without stepping on it. All students will transplant their seedling in April and will start seeding the field.**

#### **Tool Use Tips**

**Use spading forks and shovels only when you are wearing shoes. Walk when carrying tools. Keep tools below shoulder level. Never leave tool on the ground. Always stand them up or return them to the storage area.**

## The Eagle's Nest

### **The S.O.A.R. Initiative**

*by Curtis Lambson  
Youth Development Coordinator*

The Eagle is a majestic symbol that is the epitome of independence, pride, and skill. How many of us have paused to envy its mastery of movement through the skies? It is fitting that the symbol of the Renaissance at GCCS is the term SOAR.

S. O. A. R. stands for Student Ownership And Rewards. It is an educational initiative, with the focus on rewarding positive behavior.

For many, it will be a paradigm shift to change from old-school fear of punishment (extrinsic motivation) to motivation driven by a desire for something better (intrinsic motivation). The motivation that comes from within is linked to the indomitable spirit within the youth of today. S.O.A.R. enables students to harness and direct that spirit for success. **Join us in our implementation of S.O.A.R.. (More details to come)**