



The Eagle Times: Elementary School Edition



December 2017 Issue

Gila Crossing Community School

School Wide News

Every Friday dismissal is
@12:30 pm

- Dec.1-SOM Assembly
4-8-8:30 am
K-3 9:30 am
- Dec.7-Breakfast with the Principal
@9 am
- Dec.9-Fun run/Fun walk @ 7 am
- Dec.11-GRIC Water Rights Day
No school
- Dec.13-Picture Retake Day
- Dec.14-G&T Play
5 pm-7 pm
- Dec.15-Quarter 2 Ends
- Dec.19-Christmas Program
K-3 @9:30 am
4-8 @ 1:30 pm
- Dec.20-Christmas Community Dinner
10:30 am-12:00 pm
- Dec.20-Parent/Teacher Conferences
1 pm-6 pm
Quarter 2 Report cards issued
- Dec.20-Early Dismissal @12:30 pm
- Dec.21-Early Dismissal @12:30 pm
- Dec.22-Jan.5-Winter Break



- Jan.8-No School-PD Day
- Jan.9-Students return to school

News from Administration

Mr. Copenhaver

I want to start off by saying that our first mass evacuation drill went really well. Students, staff, and emergency personnel were all cooperative and helpful during the drill. We were able to receive feedback from our staff and emergency responders to make our transition to safety quicker and smoother. We are planning on having another drill in the spring so that we can improve upon our evacuation if a real emergency should occur.

I also want to invite everyone to our upcoming events:

- Breakfast with the Principal
- Christmas Program
- Community Dinner
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 2nd Quarter assemblies (December 21)
- Visit from Santa (December 21).

Finally, please look for report cards at our parent/teacher conferences on December 20th and school resumes after Christmas break on Tuesday, January 9th.

Math Matters

Mr. Murdock
Ms. Fowler

Students and staff continue to work together to become better mathematicians. Our Walk-to Math program allows students to work on difficult topics at a much slower pace, and we are noticing some improvements. Make sure that students keep their brains active over the holiday season by practicing math facts with them.

Have a joyous HOLIDAY SEASON!!!!

Elementary School Counseling Update

Mrs. Taxter

I hope you have enjoyed your recent holiday.

I am happy to announce our November Student of the Month honorees:

Pre: Kamryn Austin and Nathan Alvarez

K: Zaniyah Thomas

1st: Emily Hernandez

2nd: Raphael Charley

3rd: Carlos Medrano Soto

4th: Laura Flores-Palma

Staff: Ms May Mercado.

Please see the schedule on this page, listing the upcoming SOM assemblies' date and times.

The Reading Corner

Mrs. Bowers & Mrs. Ford

Reading & Listening are the breathing **IN** of information.

Writing & Speaking are the breathing **OUT** of information.

Like waves along the beach, you cannot have one without the other!

Check out these websites over Winter Break:

www.speakaboos.com

username: gila1 password: abc123

www.uniteforliteracy.com

www.starfall.com

www.storylineonline.net

www.abcya.com

Enjoy the holiday season!!!



Kindergarten

Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Lewis & Ms. Bahe
Coming up we will have Galileo testing the week of December 4th. Please have your child to school on time each day.

In Spalding we will be writing our phonograms and taking the written phonogram test. We will also be taking our spelling test! In math we are continuing to work on addition and subtraction, number identification, and counting to 100. As a reminder homework will start being graded on January 12th, 2018. The students who can identify all upper case, lower case, and letter sounds will be taking part in the pizza party on December 19th. Make sure that you are practicing with your child and that homework is being completed.

1st Grade

Ms. Madrid, Ms. Gloria,
Mrs. Tuchawena, & Ms. Laureano
Greetings from 1st grade.
As we head toward the end of the second semester, first graders are striving. In reading, we will be targeting cause and effect and conclusions. In math, we will be working with data-collecting, interpreting, and organizing. Parents, we want to thank you for making sure your child is turning in their homework every week. Please continue to read with your child everyday. We appreciate you! We are looking forward to seeing you at parent/teacher conferences. Have a wonderful Christmas and a prosperous new year!

2nd Grade

Ms. Elofson, Ms. Thomas, Ms. Dora,
and Ms. Jensen
In Math, we are continuing our addition skills and we have started subtraction. Please have your child demonstrate these skills at home by adding and taking away, using simple objects (such as cups, crackers, or grapes). In Reading, we are learning how to read and write compound sentences. Please read with your child for 10 minutes daily and watch their confidence soar! Merry Christmas to all, from your 2nd grade team.



FACE

Ms. Fraley/Ms. Guerra/Ms. Mestaz/Mr. Pooley

Our goal this year in FACE is to focus on culture and language. The adults are working on their goals such as GED, Employment, College, and personal goals. They also started making books for their children and are learning about the new Early Childhood Standards. The children are making messes and using all of their senses to develop skills in language and literacy, math, science, social studies, social-emotional, physical, and creative arts through play everyday. Our parent educators have been to two trainings in November so December they will be meeting with their families on a regular basis again. Our FACE Family Circle is on December 13, 2017.

If you are interested in FACE come see us or give us a call! We have openings for families with children prenatal to grade 3.

3rd Grade

Ms. Hillis, Ms. Smith, Ms. Brown
& Ms. Janella

During the month of December, we will have Galileo Testing. It is important to have your child at school and on time. Some classes will start testing right after breakfast.

On Dec. 14, the third grade classes will be going to the Az. Broadway Theatre in Peoria. We will be leaving at 8:30 that morning.

We will be sending out Parent/Teacher Conference schedules during the week of the 18th. So, look out for the schedule.

We are starting a new topic: Connect Area to Multiplication and Addition in Math. Continue to work with your child on their multiplication fluency.

Happy Holidays!!

Special Education

Ms. Jones

With some time off from school, your students might be staying up later and sleeping in late mornings. Hopefully, you will have a chance to take a break too from having to make sure that they get out the door in time to catch the bus! We wish all of you a relaxing, restful holiday!

News from the Library Mrs. McQueen & Sara Dillon

Ho! Ho! Ho! Happy Holidays!!! Here is wishing you much happiness and a prosperous new year.

This month we will be reading some books about snowmen, elves, Santa Claus, and of course The Grinch. We will be doing some very cool activities that may brighten up your house.

Happy Holidays and Happy Reading

**PICTURE
RETAKE
DAY
is Dec. 13th!**

News from Garden by: Mr. Rodriguez and Mr. Van Druff

We are now in the month of December and we have learned a lot this semester! We started out with learning the parts of a flower and now we're currently finishing up learning about the seasons of the year. We have been focusing on the Fall season and we'll soon be moving on to the Winter season. Mr. Van Druff and Mr. Rodriguez would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Have fun and please be safe.

4th Grade
Mr. Britton, Ms. Rollins
& Mr. Williamson

Math: We are continuing long division and will be moving into differential instruction.

Reading: The stories that we will be focusing on this upcoming month stress research strategies. This will incorporate with research based writing context.

Thank you for your food drive contributions which lead to our winning the competition!

From all of the teachers in the 4th grade we wish you and your families a safe and happy holiday season and a wonderful new year!

News from Music
by: Mr. Stein

Hello Parents and Family members. It's hard to believe that we are in the month of December. Of course our major project now is our Christmas Concert which is to be held on December 19th. The elementary assembly will be at 1:30 P.M. This year promises to be very beautiful. The students will participate in a re-enactment of the Nativity story. Our G&T students under the direction of Ms. Karen, will pose on stage in costume to various scenes from the story while various grade levels sing songs that describe what is happening on stage. I am very excited to be sharing this exciting new presentation with you. Please don't miss it!

Success Academy

Mr. Twitchell, Dr. Holzer & Mr. Flores

Positive behavior support, often called PBS, is not just for students here at Gila Crossing Community School. Parents can use the same ideas to create a better environment for the entire family. First, let's look at what PBS is:

1. Deciding what behavior you want to change
2. Deciding how you want that behavior to change
3. Using behavior science to change that behavior
 - a. Develop a theory about why you think the behavior is occurring
 - b. Test your theory
4. Using supports that have been tested and proven to work
 - a. Teach new skills to get the same results
 - b. Change environments and daily routines
 - c. Reward positive behaviors

Positive behavior support does not mean changing the child; rather, it means creating a new environment that supports the positive behavior you want to achieve. It means creating a plan that determines who will help and what you will do differently. So how do you do this? Most of the time our children misbehave because they want attention and the only way they can think of to get it is to misbehave. How many times have you been in the grocery store behind a mother who is asking her child the following questions?

- Do you want a spanking?
- Do you want me to take you out to the car?
- Do you want me to tell your father when we get home?

Children cry, grab, scream and beg because they want to communicate something to you. The only way to change this habit is to teach them what we call "replacement behaviors". These are new behaviors that are socially acceptable. The only way to teach these behaviors is to model and practice them.

News from P.E.
by: Ms. Haywood

The semester is quickly wrapping up. We have had so much fun! Have a great vacation and enjoy your time off. Sleep in, but play hard while you can. Playing makes us stronger! It not only makes the muscles we see in our arms and legs stronger, but it makes our hearts and lungs stronger. While giving thanks for family and friends, be sure to give thanks for your body. It allows us to do absolutely everything we do. Have a wonderful break! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!!

Culture Corner
Miss. Joyce & Ms. Parsons

Greetings from the GCCS Culture Program
GCCS students are doing very well in learning many new words in O'otham. This month we are learning about 'being respectful', 'being a good human being', and 'about family' as an Akimel O'otham and/or Pee Posh. These statements relates to our lesson plan on Thova Thash (Thanksgiving) and the history of the celebration. O'otham has translated the name to Turkey Day. The students are doing very well in naming foods that we eat during the feast of Thova Thash. Students discussed and recalled what happens when getting together with *ve:m ki:kam* (family) and *hahajuñ* (relatives). Some students also touched on immediate family by doing a family tree, and naming their relatives by its proper O'otham name, such as *O:g*, *Je'e*, and *vepnag*.

Christmas is coming and the culture program will begin the Akimel O'otham legends. Another topic will be the Water Rights and Weather Change.

You are welcome to come share class time with your child at any time.

Happy Thanksgiving, Have a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year

Technology
By: Mr. Buckles

Grade level typing skills are improving at a great rate. These are the students that have met grade level Targets for Home Row Keys:

3rd- Anthony Silvas, Aidan Carvajal, Roman Susunkewa, Audrina Soke, Nathan Hernandez, Melanie Whittier.
4th- Reyna Soke, Brandon Lopez, Ivan Gage, Demitri Allison, Dominic Sabori, Ayden Diaz, Rafael Soriano.

K-1 students continue to improve their mouse and keyboard skills. ABCya-Stacking Cups is popular activity for keyboard letter recognition.

2nd grade have started the Typing Agent program and are learning the home row keys.