



# The Eagle Times: Middle School Edition



December 2017 Issue

Gila Crossing Middle 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

by: 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.

## 7th Grade Math

Ms. Antone-Morton

7th grade will be learning how to solve multi-step inequalities, and solving multi-equations. Please make sure students get a good breakfast and enough sleep, the testing schedule will require all students to be ready to take their time and do the best they can in all subject areas.

## School Counseling

Mrs. Tang-Taylor

520-550-4834 ext 253

[breonne.tangtaylor@gccseagles.org](mailto:breonne.tangtaylor@gccseagles.org)

## CONGRATULATIONS! STUDENT OF THE MONTH

- 5th grade - Devon Juan
- 6th grade - Jade Silas
- 7th grade - Samuel Dillon
- 8th grade - Jasmine Lamas Enos

**7th and 8th grade Students-** have been invited to apply for the RECHARGE 2018 Conference which is specifically targeting 7th - 12th grade Native American Students to participate in workshops about their future, resources and a tour of the ASU - Tempe campus. Space is limited and students have been given packets and their deadline date.

## Attention 8th grade Parents and Students

High School Registration is fast approaching for the 2018-2019 school year. There will be tours scheduled and an upcoming information event where you can complete the enrollment packet and turn it in all in one evening.

**Reminder** that all 5th - 8th grade students are required to complete 10 hours of community service before April 15th, 2018.

Ms. Molina, Ms. Yalencia  
&

### 5th Grade

As we close up the second quarter, students will be working hard to bring up low grades. Students should be completing missing work and getting everything they can, turned in. We will be finishing up JA Biztown as part of our Social Studies and move into other curriculum.

Students will also be starting Galileo testing next week. Please make sure your student gets plenty of rest and is in class on time ready to work!!! Please make sure your students are coming to school dressed warmly, the temperatures are dropping and the mornings are getting colder.

### 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](http://www.speakaboos.com)

username: gila1 password: abc123

[www.uniteforliteracy.com](http://www.uniteforliteracy.com)

[www.storylineonline.net](http://www.storylineonline.net)

[readtheory.org](http://readtheory.org)

[www.abcya.com](http://www.abcya.com)

**Enjoy the holiday season!!!**



### Student Council

Ms. McQueen and Mrs. Tang-Taylor



The Student Council earned their first ever Presentation Certificate at their Student Council Leadership Conference this month. The students did exceptionally well presenting on "Digital Introductions", which is a project that every student council must do in order to attempt to earn the distinction of being an Honors or Master Council.

Student Council will be raising funds in the upcoming months to attend their Student Council Retreat and final conference of the year.

We are proud of our Student Council members and officers who put in long, tiring hours in assisting with the collection, sorting and packing of over 2000 non perishable items that were redistributed out to multiple families in the community for the Holiday Giving Thanks.

A few of the Student Council members take it upon themselves to stay after school on a weekly basis to assist with community service efforts, such as assisting with homework help and playground supervision with our Kindergarten students.

Our Student Council is on the move and look forward to seeing them as they become a visible group on the GCCS campus helping to build school pride amongst all of our students.

### 6th Grade

Mrs. Ruiz, Mrs. Matus, Ms.  
Munoz

**BizTown is on the Horizon!!!**

Tomorrow 11/29/2017 we are going to BizTown. We will get to use the real world skills we have learned over the past month and a half.

We have learned how to write checks, keep check registers, and the importance of paying our bills! Parents ask your student how they feel about the economy. As we leave November and move into December, we are pushing harder to get those last minute concepts in before Galileo and NWEA testing begin in January. Have a wonderful holiday season and again thanks for all you do!!

### Middle School Nurse News (For Grades 5-8)

By: Nurse Collette

Winter break is fast approaching!  
Have a fun and safe break with  
family and friends!

If your student is in 6th grade and has recently turned 11 Years old, please make sure they receive their mandatory 11 year old immunizations before returning to school after break. Any questions feel free to call myself or the Clinic.

### News from Music

by: Mr. Stein

Greetings Parents and Family members from the GCCS music program. November has quickly flown by and the month of December is soon to be upon us. Of course our major project for this month will be our annual Christmas Program which is to be held on December 19th. The Middle School assembly starts at 1:30 P.M. This year the students will present the Nativity Story. This is a combined effort with our G&T students under the direction of Ms. Karen and various grade levels. Ms. Karen's students will pose on stage in costume to various scenes from the Nativity

### Social Studies

by: Mr. Turnbow

The semester is coming to a close so please keep up with your work! For this month both grades will conclude their current units. 7th grade will conclude their Immigration and Industrialization Unit meanwhile 8th grade will focus on Government and Citizenship.

## Science

By Renee Sullivan

Congratulations 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science students for completing your Do It Yourself (DIY) Experiments.

You did a great job with presentation as well as demonstration. Special thanks to BA for conducting your presentations for the "entire" Third Grade.

For the month of December we will concentrate on vocabulary, definitions, and sentences for "Motion".

Story while various grade levels sing songs describing what is happening on stage. This promises to be a very unique and exciting presentation. 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.

On the same days that you practice saying "no," also practice saying "yes." Have him or her model saying "thank you" and then compliment him or her on his or her manners. You will need to model this the same way you did for the "no" model. It isn't a miracle, and it isn't going to happen over night. But soon, you will start to see a difference when you tell your child "no." It is fair for him or her to understand why you said, "no," so explaining your reason is reasonable. Your



## 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!

## Words from Mrs. Salguero & Mrs. Olivas

As Winter Break is approaching, we have a lot of work to complete. All students are working hard in completing missing assignments. Also, we will have NWEA testing the first week of December so please make sure your child gets plenty of rest and arrives on time. It's important that they work hard on increasing their RIT score for MOY. They will continue to learn skills and strategies to improve their understanding in reading, writing, and math.

Happy Holiday! We wish everyone a special Christmas and a wonderful New Years.

## 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!!!!

## Language Arts 8th Grade

By: Sherri Miller

What an awesome semester! Our 8th graders writing ability has improved tremendously. They will be applying this skill as they submit their eligibility letter to the ASU Leadership Conference in January.

Please encourage your child to come to school prepared and motivated for they are the future of tomorrow!  
Happy Holidays!

## Language Arts

7th Grade  
Ms. Anderson

I'm pleased to announce that we have completed our first novel (Holes) of the school year, great job 7th grade!

Now that we have finished reading, we will be starting literacy stations and honing in on various literacy skills, as well as the writing process; students will be required to write their final essay based on one of three topics of their choice. The novel will still be utilized in the literacy stations and for the final essay.

Good luck, and finish strong ladies and gentlemen!!!

\*\*\*\*Extra Credit Answer: POLAR BEARS\*\*\*\*

## 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:

5th- Damon Avila.

6th- Anthony Grant, Ariyanna Charley, Gracie Flores, Amani Francisco, Robert Francisco.

8th- Richard Valenzuela, Yasmine Thomas, Joell Goseyun, Angel Navasie, Erin Francisco, Marisa Rios, Clayton Lewis.

Great Job all Typers!!

7th grade students are currently creating a Kahoot to help review the Industrialization and Immigration Unit for Social Studies class.

children will respect you for not using the "I'm the mommy that's why," and you will respect him or her for using good manners by accepting your reason. Be honest in your reason. "It's too expensive." "It's not good for you." "I don't have the money this week," are all good responses. The most important lesson is to practice, practice, and practice the new behavior. You have to be consistent. If you say "no" and give a reason, then don't give in and purchase the item if further begging ensues. This only tells the child that you have a breaking point and to keep trying. If you've said "no" and given a reason, then you should not say "no" again nor give another reason. When your child accepts your answer and your reason, then it is very important for you to compliment him or her on this good behavior. It is also very important that both parents and/or caregivers are consistent. What can you do if the above does not work? The truth is every child is different, even children in the same family. What works for some children doesn't work for all.

## 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!!!!

# PICTURE RETAKE DAY is Dec. 13th!



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

## News from Garden

by: Mr. Rodriguez and Mr. Van Druff

We have had a great semester! Most of us have planted our seeds in our planting inserts and for those that haven't yet done so, will be doing so before Winter Break. Mr. Van Druff and Mr. Rodriguez want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Have fun and please be safe.

## News from the Library

Mrs. McQueen  
Sara Dillon

Ho! Ho! Ho! Happy Holidays.  
During the month of December we are going to be reading some very cool stories and create some awesome Christmas activities.

Have a very Merry Christmas, and a prosperous New Year.

Happy Ho Ho Ho reading.

## GCCS Athletic News

Mr. Hernandez

Ms. Molina

*Happy Holidays Eagles,  
It has been such an amazing  
sports year. As we will soon  
wrap up the current fall  
sports season we will  
prepare for the winter  
break. We also will be kicking  
off our Tiny Tots program  
for our K-4 students, so  
please turn in those  
permission slips in ASAP.  
When we return from break  
we will be kicking off our  
winter sports season which  
will consist of Softball and  
Boys Basketball.  
Have a safe and Happy  
Holidays and  
GO EAGLES!!*

