



Newsletter
October 28, 2011

Photo of the Week

Bear Cubs and a cow made this week's trip to David & Heidi Berglund's farm lots of fun. It was a great chance to connect students with their learning, the community, and one another. Our thanks to the Berglunds for their hospitality!



Thank You for Your Help!

We'd like to extend a special "Thank You" this week to Carrie McHugh of the Cook County Historical Museum and volunteer Wayne Anderson for providing a special program for our Otter class. It was entertaining as well as informative, and gave our students a personal connection to their classwork. Thanks to Jeanne Wright for volunteering support during our Empty Bowls art project, and to Jana Berka for leading our "Small Stuff" fundraising efforts (box tops, milk caps, etc.). We continue to recognize the on-going efforts of Chris Callender, Lyle Gerard, Kevin Kager, and Lisa Walton that make our school a better place. Thank you, all! Thanks, too, to this week's Food Committee volunteers: Fawn Smith, Jana Berka, Megan Heikes, Hartley Acero, Angie Works, and Cathy Terry. Family and friends are invited to join us Fridays at 11:45 for lunch with the students.

What's Happening at GES:

Goal-Setting Conference Follow-up Survey: We fell short of *our own goals* during this fall's goal-setting conference window and would like to find out more about why the turnout was low. Please take the time to complete our brief on-line survey and help us get better at making sure we meet your needs with our parent communications. The survey can be found at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/X3VDF9W>.

Bear Cubs at WTIP: Berglunds were not the only ones visited by our Bear Cubs this week. The students stopped by the studios at WTIP to record a couple Halloween songs to be broadcast on Monday morning, 10/31. Check out a video of the trip at: <http://wtip.org/drupal/content/bear-cubs-great-expectation-school-visit-wtip>.

Joint School Board Work Session Generates Plans: Board representatives from I.S.D.166 and the three charter schools in the county met this week to discuss ways to develop educational excellence for all students. It was a very positive meeting and there are several initiatives that the group agreed to pursue, including a county-wide Activities Day for all students, a county-wide awareness and fundraising effort to support early childhood education, opportunities for cross-district community service projects, and more. Of course, we could use some help in making these opportunities a reality. If you'd like to assist with any of them, or would like more information, please contact Peter James at the school or GES board chair Jon Hedstrom at 387-1987.

Tuesday, November 15th -- Save the Date!

GES will be holding its Annual Meeting from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Dessert and child care will be provided.

Application for Educational Benefits Forms Needed! If you have not already completed and returned the green Application for Educational Benefits form, please do so as soon as possible. We need this information from *all* families in order to maximize supplemental funding for the school. If you have any questions or would like assistance in completing the form, please contact the school. We appreciate your participation in this effort!

Important Calendar Reminders (please call the school with any questions):

Special Board Meeting 11/1: The board will have a special meeting to discuss Annual Meeting items at 4:00.

NO SCHOOL 11/7 & 11/8: There will be no school these days. School resumes Wednesday, November 9th.

Annual Meeting 11/15 at 6:30: All parents are voting members of GES and are invited to attend!

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Check us out online at www.GreatExpectationsSchool.com