



Photo of the Week

Providing students with meaningful applications of their learning helps connect them to the content and increases their understanding. Otter students are applying their study of coordinate systems, plane geometry, ratios, and other math concepts to create a topographic map of the GES property. This map will be used in future studies of biomes and for expansion planning.



Thank You for Your Help!

Thanks go out this week to Chris Callender, Lyle Gerard, and Lisa Walton for their on-going efforts, and to this week's Food Committee volunteers: Rob Wells, Sara Silence, Karina Roth (twice!), and Mike Roth. Thank you!

What's Happening at GES:

Facilities Planning Group Wants Your Input If you have not yet completed the online survey regarding our facilities expansion, please do so soon. The survey can be found at: www.surveymonkey.com/s/VS2NPH8. We will be reviewing the results soon and developing plans in the next month or so in order to present at the Annual Meeting November 15th. Your priorities help set the direction for our school's future, so please take the time to add your thoughts to our deliberations. Thank you for your support and assistance!

Technology is Everywhere! GES needs to develop a 3-year technology plan and we'd like the help of any techies in our community. With broadband service heading this way and the proliferation of social media and web-integrated applications, we see potential for implementing important changes in the way we support learning through technology. If you are a power user or simply have a desire to explore this exciting opportunity, please call.

Goal-Setting Conferences We will be holding our first parent/teacher conferences of the year starting next week. These will be opportunities to discuss your student's performance to-date, with a focus on establishing both academic and social goals for the year. Please call the office to schedule your time – first come, first served!

MEA Break October 19-21 Enjoy a fall break beginning Wednesday, 10/19. School resumes Monday, 10/24.

Joint School Board Work Session 10/27: This will be an important effort to support county-wide collaboration within the education community, as board representatives from I.S.D.166 and the three charter schools in the county meet to discuss ways to develop educational excellence for all students. If you have ideas you think we should explore, please contact Peter James at the school or GES board chair Jon Hedstrom at 387-1987.

Busing/Transportation Issues: We are having a large number of last-minute changes in student transportation, causing confusion and potentially dangerous situations. Please ensure your students understand how they are getting home and let us know as soon as possible of any changes or unscheduled pick-ups. Also, parents must come in to sign students in or out when they are arriving late or leaving early. Finally, barring emergencies, students will no longer be allowed to phone parents to get permission for last-minute changes.

Pertussis in Cook County: You may have heard reports of pertussis (whooping cough) diagnosed in Cook County. While this is true, there have been no reports of students at GES being infected. If that were to happen, we would notify all our parents immediately. A good summary of the facts and precautions can be found at www.boreal.org. Covering your cough or sneeze and adequate hand washing are key! If you have any questions or suspect your child may have contracted the disease, please contact the school as soon as possible. Thank you!

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

Next Board Meeting SCHEDULE CHANGE! We will be meeting at 4:00 on October 11, due to conferences.

Parent/Teacher Conferences: Goal-setting conferences after school 10/13 - 10/18. Please call to schedule.

MEA Break Oct 19 - 21: NO SCHOOL Wed - Fri. Classes resume as usual on Monday, Oct 24.

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