



Great
Expectations
School

Newsletter

December 16, 2011

Photo of the Week: Community Lunch

Every Friday, parents, family, and friends are invited to join students for lunch. Bear Cubs and Fawns eat from 11:45 – 12:10; Wolves and Otters eat from 12:15 – 12:40. This divided lunch hour allows more room and less commotion for students and guests alike. It also provides a great opportunity to share an important part of the students' lives. Join us as you are able!



Thank You for Your Help!

Jana Berka was a "superstar" volunteer this week, spending some of last weekend doing some deep cleaning in the Bear Cubs classroom and coordinating our "Small Stuff" fundraising, then coming in Monday to prepare the PB&J lunch. Thank you so much! Thanks, too, to Yvonne Mills and Gina Macy who are sharing their musical talents with the students and supporting classroom initiatives. Thanks to Melanie Steele, Scott Herrly, and Angie Works for coordinating and supporting our Equal Exchange fundraiser! This has become a great tradition and a good fit with the school's mission and needs. Thanks, of course, to volunteers Chris Callender, Lyle Gerard, Kevin Kager for their contributions and to this week's Food Committee volunteers: Jana Berka, Megan Heikes, Kristin Blomberg, Mike Roth, and Karina Roth. We are very grateful for all the support we get from our many volunteers!

What's Happening at GES:

Swimming Lessons / Pool Time Begins 1/9 The dates are set! We will once again be providing swimming lessons to all students in the Bear Cubs, Fawns, and Wolves classrooms, as well as providing recreational pool time for the Otter students beginning Monday, January 9th and running every day for two weeks. We are planning to use Arrowhead Transportation to shuttle students between the school and pool, and have historically asked parents to make a contribution to help offset the cost of lessons, pool rental, and transportation. Please call the school if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's participation – and check that swim suits still fit!

Equal Exchange Orders have Arrived! If you have not yet picked up your order, please stop by the office soon!

Student-designed Gift Tags Now Available

Packets of gift tags created by our blossoming young artists are now available for purchase. Each packet contains 20 tags, each with a different design! Add a unique touch to your gifts and support the school at the same time. Two packets are just \$5.00! Stop by the office and pick some up during your next visit to the school!

Mission to Method: Why we do What we do at GES

Ever hear of Howard Gardner? In the early 80's, he created a model using what he termed "multiple intelligences" to explain that different people tended to have dispositions toward certain ways of learning about or understanding the world. For instance, some people learn best by listening, others through pictures, others by working with their hands, etc. That's certainly an oversimplification, but you get the idea. These ideas have been developed and expanded in many ways since then, but the fundamental principles remain solid and undergird much of why we use different ways to present information to students and why we provide them different ways to demonstrate their understanding. The variety allows students with different "learning styles" to access the same material and have opportunities to learn. It also exposes students to information in ways other than their preferred mode, so they see more connections and develop additional learning skills. Recognizing multiple intelligences helps us support individual student needs and helps students see themselves as capable –and successful – learners.

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

School Board Meeting 12/20: Community input is welcome beginning at 3:30. Business meeting at 4:00.

Holiday Break Begins 12/23: There will be a full day of school on 12/22. School resumes Tuesday, 1/3/12.

Swimming Lessons Begin 1/9: Students will be swimming daily for two weeks, from 1/9 – 1/20.

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