



Newsletter
February 4, 2011

Photo of the Week **Swimming Lessons !**

It may not be a tropical vacation, but a session at the pool provides a nice alternative. Students are half-way through two weeks of lessons that help ensure they can be safe and confident in the water. Partnering with the community is one way we work to creatively meet student needs and enhance learning within the space and financial limits of a small school.



Thank You for Your Help!

We'll start our "thank you's" this week by recognizing a couple GES grandparents for their efforts! Al Healy and Phyllis Olson have been working in our library and with our students, respectively. Thanks also to Hartley Acero for her classroom support, and to Chris Callender and Lyle Gerard for their on-going efforts. Our Great Lunch volunteers this week were Kim Falter, Anna Sorensen, Mike Roth, and Karina Roth (twice, once on her birthday!). Thank you, all, for contributing your time for our students!

Automated Calling System Testing Next Week!

We have loaded the new system with phone numbers and emails, and have conducted a successful test with staff member phones. You should be receiving a test phone call and email next week. In addition to cancellations, we hope to use the system for notices and reminders. Please let us know if you'd like us to change or add phone numbers or emails to the system.

Swimming Lessons Continue Next Week

Thank you for the extra efforts to ensure students have a swim suit, towel, and plastic bag (for wet gear) each day.

Facilities Working Group Starting Up!

With the board's recent decision on classroom groupings, we now have a good picture of our facility needs. If you'd like to help us figure out the best way to meet those needs, you are welcome to join us for this limited-duration task. Please contact Peter James at 387-9322 or via email at pjames@boreal.org to find out more.

Time to Start Thinking "Science Fair"! We won't be holding our annual Science Fair until April 21st, but now's the time to think about getting your experiments started. All students are eligible to participate, and we hope to get yet another large turnout. Additional materials will be coming home soon.

Kindergarten Open House: Parents of potential kindergarten students are invited to join Bear Cub educator Sue Butter and Director Peter James on March 8th from 5:30 – 6:30.

Facebook for Parents! I.S.D. 166 Superintendent (and closet techie) Beth Schwarz will be leading a class from 6 – 8 on Feb 17th to help parents understand "social media" and its potential impacts. Call Community Ed at 387-2000 for more info.

Date Correction: Girl Scout Father/Daughter Dance Feb 10th! Contact Laura @475-2390 for details.

Can You Help?

- The approach that allows GES to operate successfully as a small school requires
- volunteers. We expect that our parents will add their efforts in support of the school,
- and we have had great participation from many of our families. We also know that not everyone can be available for everything, so we try to have opportunities that fit different skills and schedules. Please review the list below and see if you are the right person to fill any of these needs. We appreciate all of the ways our community pitches in to make GES a great place to learn. Please call the office if you can help. Thank you!
- **Install kickplates and door stops on classroom doors:** Materials provided, you need to operate a cordless drill/driver
- **Reload PC's:** Re-install operating system and application software on several PC's
- **Enter new books into library system:** We will train you to help us clear a backlog of items
- **Download audio books onto CD's:** Many of our students benefit from audio books, but we need to transfer them off a website first
- **Lunch:** Earn 2 lunch tickets every time you help! We could use you Mon, Wed, or Fri.
- **"Early Spring" Cleaning:** If you'll be in town over the mid-winter break, we're trying to organize a "cleaning party" – food included!

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

Swimming Lessons 1/31 – 2/11: Students in kindergarten through 5th grade will need suits and towels!

Board Meeting February 15th: Community input welcome beginning at 3:30. Meeting begins at 4:00.

NO SCHOOL 2/21 – 2/25: Mid-winter break. School resumes on Monday, February 28th.

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Check us out online at www.GreatExpectationsSchool.com