

FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Garden City Community School



September – October 2010

What a great start to our new school year! Teachers and students have been engaged in great activities getting to know each other's interests, strengths and class routines. I've seen a lot of happiness on faces of all ages and know it's going to be an incredible year full of learning for everyone! There are a lot of events coming up, so please check through my newsletter and watch the GCCS website to keep updated so you won't miss a thing! We're trying to keep paper costs down and hope to only send this electronically now. If you do not have access to the internet, please be sure your child's teacher knows so a paper copy can be sent to you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ❑ **CHARTER SCHOOL FAMILY PARTY at WAHOZ in Meridian - Sept 17, 4-8PM**
This is a free event sponsored by the Coalition of Charter School Families to help charter school families in the Treasure Valley get to know each other! See our website for more details.
- ❑ **GCCS BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING, Monday Sept 20, 7PM**
Our school is very unique with the way school board meetings are handled. You are invited to join the "family" as the directors love to hear from stakeholders and are very open to your opinions and ideas. You do not have to sign up in advance – just come down to the school any third Monday to join them! They are the people who *vote* on final decisions affecting the school, but your input is always requested and respected.
- ❑ **COMMUNITY COUNCIL & ELECTION of Parent Representative to the Board*, Sept. 23, 6:00-6:20PM** Ballots will be given to each family to vote on the parent they want as their second representative to the board. See the end of this newsletter for the candidates' information. There will also be a short discussion about the consideration of changing the school's name
- ❑ **FAMILY GOAL NIGHT, Thursday, Sept. 23, 6:30-8:15PM (two session choices)**
This is a special evening that is required for all students and a family member to attend. You will learn to work with your child to help them set goals for their lives – in addition to learning more about their teacher and the class's year plans. (Each parent even has homework to complete!) You may choose Session 1 (6:30-7:20PM) or Session 2 (7:25-8:15PM). Your child's teacher will send you more information soon!
- ❑ **SCHOOL PICTURES, Wed, Sept 29**
All students and staff are required to have their photos taken for our information system. If you would like to purchase the photos, there will be packets sent home the week prior to the day. These need to be returned on Picture Day to hand to the photography company rep for ordering.
- ❑ **IDAHO ART EDUCATION CONFERENCE (IAEA), Oct 7 & 8**
No school for students as these are the dates for Idaho teacher in-services. The Art Ed conferences will be held at our school this year! If you would also like to attend, see the IAEA website to register!
- ❑ **APPLEBEE'S GCCS PANCAKE FEED, Sat morning. Oct.16**
Save the date for our annual All-You-Can Eat fundraiser sponsored by AppleBee's! Students will be selling tickets to the event where the GCCS board and staff will be the servers! The restaurant only allows our ticket buyers to eat during this fun 8-10AM event and the GCCS families enjoy getting to meet each other!! More info to come later!
- ❑ **TEACHING with POVERTY in MIND - Thursday, Oct. 21**
No school for students – just on Thursday! GCCS is hosting this huge workshop for the entire state by internationally know brain-researcher and educator, Eric Jensen. See the GCCS website if you are interested in registering to attend.

STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Our GCCS staff 's schedule is packed with professional development due to the nature of our very unique educational philosophies! All teaching staff is currently taking a course titled “Differentiated Instruction for All Students” This is adding strategies to their teaching toolbox to meet all students' needs and interests in engaging ways while giving students choices in their curriculum and assessment methods. You'll be seeing some impressive additions to their teaching methods throughout the year – all helping to refine the GCCS education philosophy! Some of the terms you might be hearing soon include: learning contracts, learning preferences, tiered instruction, centers, probes, etc. We'll keep you informed, but check in with your teacher if you want to hear more specifics throughout the year!



MEDICAL INFORMATION All families were required to complete a medical history for their child's file when they first registered at GCCS. Please be sure to keep this information updated with the office and to let your child's teacher know directly if there are specific issues they should be aware of regarding your child's health.

TRANSPORTATION & MEDICINE Just a reminder.....but I'm sure you understand the safety reasons for these required procedures:

- Transportation- Please remember that a written note -dated and signed by the student's parent or legal guardian - must be given to the office to make any changes in transportation. This includes bus stops and anyone picking the child up during or after school.
- Medicine- Even if it's just for Tylenol or Benadryl.....we have to have all meds brought to the office with a note from you (or doctor's note for prescriptions) to be kept locked until the student needs them. No child is allowed to keep any type of drugs or medicine with them.



FUTURE FACILITY If you hear of a facility that might fit GCCS's needs in the future, please contact Director Cindy! The finance committee is checking various options and appreciates suggestions. Think out of the box! At this point we are hoping to: 1) keep within or near Garden City limits, 2) have a good outside area for a playground and gardens and 3) have close to 20,000 sq feet – or with the option to expand.

VOLUNTEERING

- ALL-SCHOOL- If you haven't turned in the blue “All-School Volunteer Form”, please do so. There are extras available in the office. There are quite a few events and projects affecting the entire school that are getting closer now, so you will be contacted as needs arise!
- IN CLASS- Your student's teacher has now had their class long enough to develop their volunteer needs. Be sure to let them know how and when you'd like to volunteer specifically with your child's class.



ANNUAL SCHOOL AUCTION The GCCS Annual Auction will be Saturday, November 13 this year! This is our biggest fund raiser of the year, so the results are very important! Chairman, Tiffany Coffey, btcoffey@cableone.net, would love to have your help! This could include planning, advertising, invites/thank you's, set-up, clean up, donations..... If you marked this on the blue All-School Volunteer form, she will be contacting you soon!

As always, I love to hear from students and their families. Feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns or ideas you may have!

Sincerely,
Cindy Hoovel, Director
Garden City Community School
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Parent Representative to the Board Elections Thursday, September 23, 2010

Voting for the open Parent Representative to the GCCS Board of Director position will take place at Goals Night, Thursday, September 23rd, at the school from 6:00-7:30PM.

Two positions on the Board of Directors are elected by the parents of the school. The opening for the new parent representative was created by Sara Covington's resignation this past summer. Michael Tetrault serves as the other Parent Representative to the board. The candidates' information and e-mails are included so you can contact them if you have questions.

The candidates for the position include:

Audra Bryant audrabryant@gmail.com - Audra Bryant is a licensed professional counselor. She specializes in Child and Adolescent counseling as well as family support and parent education. Audra has been married 16 years to her junior high sweetheart and has three children. Will is five years old and attends GCCS, Natalie is three, and Lucille is one. In her free time Audra likes to read, exercise, and be with family and friends.

Tiffany Coffey btcoffey@cableone.net – Tiffany Coffey was an elementary teacher for 10 years prior to having children and can relate to parents and teachers in a school setting. She enjoys learning and continues to take courses to keep her Idaho teaching credential current. She has participated in the organization and planning of fundraising events for both preschools for her children. She is currently chairing and coordinating the GCCS Auction.

As a public school teacher, Tiffany saw firsthand the loss of creativity – by both students and teachers – that results from a focus on testing. She is happy to have found a school environment that nurtures her son's creativity and academic development. She wants to help GCCS continue to be successful as a school and grow as a community so all three of her children can benefit from GCCS.

Melanie Owens boiseowen@msn.com - Melanie Owen is a Boise native and graduated from ITT Technical Institute in 2008 with a B.S. in Business Administration. Melanie works at CATCH (Charitable Assistance To Community's Homeless) as the Administrative Assistant/Resource Coordinator. Melanie also serves as a Commissioner for the Boise City/ADA County Housing Authority. She is familiar with ADA, the Fair Housing Act and Education Act. She was a member of the Family Self Sufficiency Coordination Committee and volunteers for many non-profits through out the community.

Melanie is a wife and mother of two - MacKenzie age nine, currently attending GCCS and Dwayne Jr, at 10 months is a GCCS hopeful. She enjoys being active in the community especially being involved with families and children services.