



Giesinger Gazette

October 2, 2007

At Giesinger, we're WILD about learning!

Looking Ahead

- October 1 - 8 PTO Fundraiser - Cookie Dough Sales - continues
- October 1 - 5 National School Lunch Week
- October 2 - Progress Reports go home
- October 3 - Fourth Grade Living Legacy Ceremony
- October 8 - 12 - Fire Prevention Week
- October 8 - School Holiday - no classes
- October 12 - PTO Fall Family Carnival
- October 16 - Math Masters Competition begins
- October 22-26 - Red Ribbon Week - Say No to Drugs!
- October 24 - Back to Your Future Day - wear college shirts today
- October 26 - Early Release Day
- October 30 - United Freestyle Stunt Program
- November 2 - PTO Movie Night

The "Read for a Better Life" Initiative

In the September issue of the *Giesinger Gazette*, we included the announcement from Dr. Stockton, CISD Superintendent, explaining the "Read for a Better Life" initiative. This year, we are asking all parents to read to their child for 30 minutes each day. This activity can be a very special, enriching one between parent and child and we support it wholeheartedly at Giesinger. Throughout the year, we will be involved in many activities to support this initiative. Most recently, we organized our *Giesinger Reading* celebration. Over 90 volunteers visited Giesinger during our celebration to read to classes. PTO set up an awe-inspiring hospitality room. It was an amazing success! The students and the teachers loved it! The volunteers voiced their enthusiasm and asked when they could return. Many, many thank yous go out to everyone who contributed to making our celebration a great kick-off to this year-long initiative.

Mrs. Giesinger Day

Second grade and PTO recently honored Mrs. Imogene Giesinger at our annual Mrs. Giesinger Day celebration. PTO provided cookies and punch to students and presented Mrs. Giesinger with a beautiful bouquet of pink roses. Students sang several songs and enjoyed a story read by Mrs. Giesinger. Mrs. Giesinger also took time to tour the building and to have lunch with staff members.

Early Release on October 26

October 26th is our first early release day of the 2007-2008 school year. Kindergarten through 4th grade will be dismissed at 12:05 p.m. PPCD and Pre-Kindergarten will have two shortened sessions from 8:05-10:05 and 10:05-12:05. Please double check any necessary childcare arrangements and notify the school office as soon as possible if you are adjusting your child's transportation. While this shortened day requires your flexibility, we appreciate your support as we use this time for conferencing and curriculum planning.

Changes in Transportation

All changes in transportation must be submitted through FAX or written note (with your signature, please) before 2:30 in the afternoon on the day the change is to take place. Phone calls and emails are not reliable and can no longer be accepted.

Crossing Guard

We will soon have crosswalks painted in the area and a crossing guard assisting during arrival and dismissal times. Please drive slowly and carefully on the access roads surrounding Giesinger. This year is our first year for walkers!

Here on Time Awards

Most of us have experienced rushed and hectic mornings. Starting the day this way can create stress and frustration. We hope each morning is a more positive one for our students and want them to start the day with a sense of calm and focus. To provide for a more calm beginning, our classrooms welcome students beginning at 7:45 each morning. Students are greeted by their teacher, have time to put up their belongings and visit with their friends. At 8:00 a.m. we announce our drawing winners to see if they are in their seats and "here on time." Winners are invited to choose a prize from our treasure chest. Immediately following the drawing, we have our announcements so that we do not interrupt instructional time. Instruction begins at 8:05 a.m. for all students.

If your child is a car rider, please help us by leaving the house in plenty of time to wait in our long car rider line. (If you can put them on the bus, there is no waiting as they off load in the morning.) Walking into class after instruction has already started is stressful for students and makes learning more difficult.

Thanks so much for your support.

Communication Update

Want news? Go to conroeisd.net to access the Giesinger website (schools, elementary, Giesinger). Our website is a work in progress. If you are a technology pro and would like to volunteer, we could certainly use your talents as our webmaster!

The parent calendar on the website is full of information. Although we will continue to send out notices regarding our activities, the website calendar will provide the opportunity to plan ahead.

Also available on our website are many pictures of our students involved in class work and special projects, our Giesinger Gazette in English and in Spanish, and links to all of our staff email accounts.

We welcome your suggestions and your help to make our website the best it can be!

Volunteers

Our volunteer list is growing by leaps and bounds! Thank you so much for completing the volunteer registration available at www.cisd.net. The volunteer list will be shared with the homeroom teachers, librarian and PTO to help us build a strong network of wonderful helpers. We appreciate any time you can give and any job you are willing to do. (Note: When filling out the volunteer form, you will be asked for an email address. If you do not have one or do not wish to set one up, please insert jalloway@conroeisd.net. Inserting this address will allow you to complete the registration process.)

News from the Lunchroom

Because the cafeteria has no provision to allow students to charge lunches, we need your help to assure that your child understands the checkout process. If a child goes through the lunch line and does not have cash, a check or any money on their account, the cafeteria must exchange their hot lunch for a sack lunch. The sack lunch consists of a cheese sandwich, milk and a fruit serving. Children often do not understand why this exchange is made. Talking to them about this may be helpful.

As a child goes through the lunch line, they will be given a slip of paper if they are out of money on their account or they have a low balance on their account. Often these notes are not given to parents, or even taken out of the cafeteria. It is very difficult for parents to be notified if these notes do not come home during the week. Another step to notify parents occurs at the beginning of each week when the cafeteria manager, Ms. Perry, prints

out letters to let parents know about low balances or empty accounts, as well. Please check your child's backpack for these.

The cafeteria accepts checks and appreciates amounts over \$25.00 to apply to student accounts. Also, parents can bring in cash to apply their child's account before 8:00 in the morning. Be sure to ask for a receipt anytime you put cash in the account. Of course, students can give the cashier cash or checks when they go through the lunch line, as well.

The purchase of snack items can cause even the most generous account to be depleted. If you would like for your child to avoid the snack items, please call Ms. Perry or write her a note and she will place a "snack block" on the account to alert the cashier that no snacks are to be purchased. (Please note that kindergarten students have the opportunity to purchase a snack item only on Fridays.)

We work to reinforce good manners, moderate voices and common courtesy in the Giesinger cafeteria. Whether you choose to have your child purchase a school lunch or bring a lunch from home, we want lunch time to be a positive, social experience for your child.

News from Pre-Kindergarten

Wow, time sure flies when you're having fun! We have been learning about colors, shapes, patterns, days of the week, and the parts of a book. Please continue to check your child's folder for important information. Just as a reminder, Pre-K lunch has been moved to 11:45, and story time begins at 12:00 in Mrs. Lombard's classroom.

News from Kindergarten

Kindergarten has gotten off to a great start! The children are adjusting well to their new environment and school expectations. In October, we will be learning about families, pumpkins, scarecrows, and the Fall season. Our focus in math will be sorting, patterning, number recognition and writing (0-20). In Language Arts, we will continue learning letters/sounds, sight words, and book concepts. Please review these skills each night with your child. Also in keeping with our district's reading initiative, please remember to read with your child daily. ***Reminder: Kindergarten can only purchase snacks on Friday in the cafeteria.

As always, we appreciate your continued support. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at school. We will be happy to return your call at the end of the day.

News from First Grade

October brings many fun and exciting activities for first grade! We will be learning about nocturnal animals, spiders, and things down on the farm. We have an upcoming field trip to the Hockley Oil Ranch. Please watch for more information to come home about this! Each class will also be designing a special fall t-shirt that we will wear to the ranch! We have started our reading groups and are also working on many new math skills such as pennies, nickels, story board problems and measurement. We appreciate all the help at home.....it shows!!!!

News from Second Grade

Everyone enjoyed meeting Mrs. Giesinger last month. The students were treated to *Grandma's Feather Bed*, a story read to them by Mrs. Giesinger. They also wrote her letters and sang songs to her.

Math Masters will be starting soon. Keep practicing with your child at home on their addition and subtraction facts.

Be sure you are reading with your child every night.

News from Third Grade

Camp Read-A-Lot was a huge success this year in third grade. We had a blast pitching tents, making s'mores, and reading the day away! Many thanks to the North Loop Pizza Hut for donating pizza boxes. Our entire grade level used the boxes to make solar ovens and cook our delicious s'mores. We love our parents and volunteer readers who were able to participate to make this a memorable Camp Read-A-Lot!

Don't forget to continue to read aloud to your children at home. Also, be looking nightly for our weekly reading logs due Friday. All third graders should be reading at least 30 minutes per night. The completed reading log (along with your signature) will be taken up Friday for a daily grade.

Please continue to work with your child on their addition and subtraction facts. We are gearing up to begin our math masters program. Third graders must accurately answer addition, subtraction, and multiplication facts correctly in timed tests to become eligible for Math Master Badges. Having a solid foundation for addition and subtraction facts will ensure your child's success! Thanks in advance for your help.

News from Fourth Grade

Fourth grade is off and running. We appreciate all the parents that are helping their children to be prepared for class. Please continue to review their planner and check to make sure they have their homework for the following day.

In Language Arts the students are reading using strategies and writing elaborated compositions with figurative language. Please remind students to read daily and study for spelling tests.

Our first science unit will cover process skills and physical properties of matter. In social studies we are studying Texas geography. Multiplication will begin soon, so multiplication facts *must* be memorized! It is imperative that the students master these facts. Any assistance you can provide will be greatly appreciated.

Our Fourth grade Living Legacy will continue this year by planting a native tree of Texas on October 3 at 9:30 am. The students will be asked to bring \$0.50 to help cover the cost of the tree. Original poetry will be shared during the ceremony.

News from the Counselor

The month of October is Red Ribbon month. This is the time we emphasize being drug free in CISD. Our themes at Giesinger for October 22 - October 26, Red Ribbon Week, are as follows:

Monday: "Official Red Ribbon Kick-off Day" - Let's stop and say "No" to drugs! Everyone wear RED.

Tuesday: Sock it to drugs! Everyone wear crazy socks.

Wednesday: "Hugs not drugs Day!" Everyone can bring their favorite stuffed animal to school.

Thursday: "Don't Let Drugs Sneak Up on You Day!" Everyone wear sneakers.

Friday: "Shade Out Drugs Day!" Everyone wear sunglasses.

On Tuesday, October 30, we will have a program for the students sponsored by our PTO. The program will be a presentation by the United Freestyle Stunt Team. This professional bicycle stunt show uses the elements of their program to deliver powerful positive messages in a way that our children will respond to. Not only will they share the "drug free" message with the students, they will also share the importance of bicycle safety.

Please take this opportunity, as a parent, to share the importance of "saying no to drugs" with your child. Your support is always appreciated.

From the PTO

Please join us at the next PTO meeting, October 15, 2007 at 9:30 am. We are always looking for new faces and fresh ideas. There are a lot of opportunities for all to help with PTO functions.

The fall fundraiser started 9/21 with the distribution of our cookie dough brochures. Products will be delivered on 11/1/07 and will be distributed from the cafeteria. Please mark this date on your calendar. Since all of the products are frozen, it is very important that your items be picked up on this date. Plan now to use these items to lighten your holiday work load with the delicious selection of cookies, cheesecakes, pizzas, etc.

The Carnival will be held October 12, 2007 from 5-8 pm. Look for more information on this event to follow. This is a great family event and a great way to support the PTO. All profits from this annual event are used for technology improvements at Giesinger.

We hope to see you at the next PTO meeting.