



The Gecko Gazette

Green Gables Elementary School
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Diane Holt, Principal
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November 14, 2008

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Daily Reading Makes ‘Stars’ out of Students

Thanks for attending our Student Lead Conferences. I heard so many words of praise for teachers and students outstanding work. It is so important that you continue to ask your student how they are doing on their reading and math goals. One of the ongoing discussions I know is in regard to homework. We are passionate about having children read at minimum of five times a week. Turn off the screen time (computers, TVs, Game boys) and READ as a family! This simple act of 20-25 min. of reading a day may change your child’s future. The following chart shows the importance of time spent reading and the relationship to percentile ranking on standardized reading assessments:

| Independent Reading Minutes Per Day | Words Read Per Year | Percentile Rank on Standardized Tests |
|--|---------------------|--|
| 67.3 | 4,733,000 | 98 th |
| 33.4 | 2,357,000 | 90 th |
| 16.9 | 1,168,000 | 70 th |
| 9.2 | 601,000 | 50 th |
| 4.3 | 251,000 | 30 th |
| 1.0 | 51,000 | 10 th |
| 0.0 | 0 | 2 nd |

That is why we feel so passionate about our home reading program at Green Gables. We ask every student to read a minimum of 20 minutes (K-1) or 25 minutes (gr. 2-5) every night for five nights during the week. It is one of the most important homework activities, which students can complete, and we need your support to make it happen.

We hope that the parents of all of our students are encouraging them to read on a regular basis. You can help by choosing a time each night for your child to read, by visiting the library on a regular basis, by reading with or to your child, and by showing an interest in the books he chooses. If he makes more than five mistakes on any single page, you can ask his teacher to help him select “just right books” that are closer to his independent reading level. (It’s no fun to read and get frustrated by the difficult words, and that choppy reading does not allow comprehension skills to grow!)

Diane Holt
Principal

November

Nov 21 **Coffee House**

Nov 26 **Early Dismissal**
1:20 p.m.
No PM Kindergarten

Nov. 27-28
NO SCHOOL

AS A REMINDER

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE IS
HERE NOW!
NOVEMBER 17-25

Do you have an extra turkey that is looking for a good home? Food items that could help build the perfect holiday meal - or just stock up the pantry - for a family in need would be especially helpful donations this year! If you would like to contribute to the PTA food drive, please leave your donation in the collection bin located in Green Gables' main entry (outside the PTA office). Seasonal foods, fresh produce, and turkeys are especially welcome! If you have additional questions, please contact Mr. Wood by email twood@fwps.org or phone 253-945-2700 or Alicia Eskew, Lattemommy@msn.com or (253) 927-2711.



Every student.....a Reader





THINGS TO REMEMBER



FLU Season

Flu season hits every year in fall and winter. Flu shots are recommended for almost everyone, but specifically for children ages 6 months to 18 years, pregnant women, and people older than 50. Recent studies show that if children are vaccinated, fewer adults will get sick because children are the largest group of flu carriers. Flu shots are offered at doctors offices, medical clinics, and many other sites (e.g., grocery stores). Many insurance plans are accepted.

When should you keep your child home from school?

If your child is experiencing any of the following symptoms, please keep him/her home.

- a. Diarrhea or vomiting: keep child home for 24 hours after last episode
- b. Fever of 100 or higher: keep child home for 24 hours after fever returns to normal
- c. Pink eye or other infection: keep child home until child has been on antibiotic for 24 hours
- d. Body rash: especially with fever and/or itching-have child seen by doctor
- e. Head lice or scabies: child must stay home until they have been treated and are free of lice and nits.

If your child shows any of the above symptoms at school, you will be called to pick your child up and take him/her home and/or to the doctor. Thank you for your help in keeping your child healthy and considering the health of others.

Throughout the midst of our current election and news coverage, one thing that has become a growing concern to me is the increasing number of families in the United States who are in the midst of extremely challenging economic circumstances. While our school may not be large enough to reach out to every family across the United States, it is encouraging to see the efforts of our own parent community in assisting those within our community who are in need of assistance. Part of these efforts are currently being coordinated by the PTA through this year's Thanksgiving Food Drive. This drive is intended to provide assistance to members of the Green Gables community who are in need during this holiday season. Following the food drive, we will begin adopting families for the holiday season through this year's Giving Tree. The Giving Tree will provide special gifts and needed items for a number of our own Green Gable's families. I am very proud to be a member of our caring community where, side by side, we can join together to make a difference for our own neighbors and friends right here in our own corner of the world!

If your own family is in need of assistance for Thanksgiving or would benefit from assistance through the Giving Tree, please contact me as soon as possible. Thank you to all who are making this service a possibility!

Mr. Wood
twood@fwps.org

LABEL ALL CLOTHING

Please label all your children's coats, sweaters, sweatshirts, hats, mittens, and even lunch boxes. Our Lost and Found cart is full of new or almost new clothing.

If you are missing clothing or personal items, check the cart before or after school. All unclaimed clothing will be donated to the PTA clothing bank.

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• **HIP! HIP! HOORAY!!!!** •

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• 324 hours of Volunteer time for •

• the month of October. We so •

• appreciate every hour. •

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