



The Goshen Link

Connecting Home and School

Goshen Elementary School

Linda F. King, Principal
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Goshen's Vision

We, the staff, students and parents of Goshen Elementary School, will work together to provide a respectful and equitable education that prepares every student to be life-long learners and

From Your PrincipalLinda King

HAPPY NEW YEAR !!

We hope you enjoyed the extended winter break, with the addition of the three snow days! Hopefully, everyone had time for family visits.

Dates to Remember

January

- 12-14 Hearing/Vision Screening Kdg & First Grade
- 13 Band Concert-GHS 7pm
- 18 No School-Dr. King's Birthday
- 22 End of 2nd Marking Period
Forest Oak visits 5th Grade
- 25 Professional Day-no school
- 30 PTA Book Fair through 2/5

February

- 2 Book Fair Storyteller 7:00 p.m.
- 4 Dine Out with the PTA
- 5 Awards Assemblies
9:30 3rd-5th
10:30 1st-2nd
- 15 President's Day -No School

The second marking period ends on January 22. January 25 is a professional day for teachers to work on report cards and comments. **There is no school for students on January 25.** Report cards will be sent home on February 3. We encourage you to work closely with your child's teacher/teachers. If you have questions or concerns about the learning progress of your child, please contact the teacher for a conference.

At Goshen, the staff is continuing to meet weekly by grade level teams to discuss student progress. These meetings include administrators, reading specialists, and/or our staff development specialist and focus primarily on reading and math. At times, the ESOL teachers, special education teachers, and paraeducators also join in to share information on students. During these meetings, we share how we are monitoring student mastery of grade level indicators and objectives. If we have concerns on specific student achievement, we make plans for appropriate re-teaching and supports. During January, all students in grades 3-5 will be assessed by the MAP-R (Measures of Academic Progress in Reading) and all students in grade K—2 will be assessed with mClass (MCPS Academic Performance in Reading). We will continue to also use the data collected from anecdotal records, student work samples, reading and math BCRs (brief constructed response), and math unit assessments to monitor student learning and to plan for effective instruction.



Our Mission

At Goshen Elementary School, we come to school everyday the Grizzly Bear way. We show our:

- B: Best Behavior
- E: Effective Effort
- A: Awesome Attitude
- R: Respect and Responsibility

We need your help! We ask that you have your child read 20—30 minutes each night. Students who read each day independently become better readers. We encourage you to provide time for you child to read each evening and to read **with** your child if possible. For math, please help us by making sure your child has memorized **all** basic math facts appropriate to the grade level. Students who do not have mastery of basic math facts encounter more difficulties with math problem-solving and higher-level computations.

Thank you for your support at home.



Newsworthy



Weather Emergency Dismissal Plans

It is very important that you discuss your family's weather emergency plans with your children in the event of an early dismissal. Please make sure that your children know exactly what their childcare arrangements are. Also, please note that on delayed openings, breakfast is not served at school.

New About the Upcoming MCPS Operating Budget

Our Superintendent, Dr. Jerry D. Weast, has released his proposed operating budget for next school year. The recommended budget proposes no new initiatives but allows our school and our school system to maintain the services and programs we are currently providing. The only increase - about 1 percent - is to help fund MCPS' continued growth in enrollment. Given the economic challenges at the state and county levels, the future of Dr. Weast's proposal is very uncertain and before the budget receives final approval from the County Council and the Board of Education, the district could be forced to make some very difficult cuts. With his recommendation, Dr. Weast and the budget team - which included our employee associations and PTAs - released a list of areas that could be impacted should cuts to the budget need to be made. These are not final recommendations and we are hopeful that we will not need to make any reductions. We want to maintain the high level of service to our students that has yielded such outstanding results in our school and our system. However, we must be prepared. With all of this uncertainty, it is more important than ever that our parents and community members are fully informed about the budget and know exactly how to make their voice heard. A budget website has been created that includes a video presentation by Dr. Weast; the full budget book, as well as a summary; frequently asked questions and much more. Please take the time to learn more about Dr. Weast's proposal and make sure the members of the Board of Education and the County Council know your priorities and your concerns. You can visit the website at <http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/budget/>. As we all know, even in difficult times, we must continue to invest in education to secure the future of our children and our community. Thank you for your continued support!

Kudos to our String Instrumentalists

Congratulations to our advanced orchestra who performed in the Gaithersburg String Concert last night at Gaithersburg High School. Our performers did an outstanding job. Thanks, also, to Mrs. Belin, our instrumental music teacher, for her hard work with our young performers. We are looking forward to the Band concert tonight!

We want your feedback! Please tear off and return:

How are we doing? _____

How can we help you? _____

Do you have any questions that have not been answered? _____
