

# Glenallan Elementary School

*"Focused on Excellence for Every Gator"*



## Gator Gazette

November 2014



Dear Glenallan Families,

*Follow Glenallan on Twitter at Glenallanes*

The month of November ends with Thanksgiving. Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families! Thanksgiving marks the occasion of two very different people coming together to sit down at one table and feast together. Glenallan is made up of so many different types of people, and our biggest strength lies in our diversity. Your child not only receives a great education but has the fortunate experience of learning from and growing up together with so many different children. During the month of November, we will continue to focus on exposing students to extraordinary learning opportunities.

- All Glenallan students (Kindergarten – Grade 5) will participate in an “Hour of Computer Coding” during the second week in December in the STEM academy and in their classrooms. Please read more information on the “7 tips to bring STEM Learning into the Home” at the end of the Gazette.
- Congratulations to Brian Miranda, Anthony Gourdain, and Maddie Gottshall who will be competing in the “Final Frontier” STEM Competition at Wooton High School on Saturday, November 15, 2014.
- Join us on Friday, November 14 for “Family Movie Night” from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the All Purpose Room.
- Join us on Tuesday, December 2 at 6:30 p.m. for Family Reading Night.
- Congratulations to our 5<sup>th</sup> Grade students for doing an outstanding job during their visit to Georgetown University.
- Every 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade student has their own google chrome book to support personalizing the learning experience.

One of my favorite quotes to reflect on during this season is by President Roosevelt, “Let us remember that, as much has been given to us, much will be expected from us, and that true homage comes from the heart as well as from the lips, and shows itself in deeds.” Let’s show our thanks for one another through our actions and how we as a community treat one another.

This year, I am extremely thankful to be a part of such a dedicated and hardworking staff. The Glenallan staff is committed to providing an environment where all children and families are valued and where dynamic instruction and diversity in learning opportunities is thriving. I am extremely thankful to be part of a community made up of different cultures that has all embraced the great responsibility of shaping the minds and influencing the character of the children of Glenallan. Happy Thanksgiving!

### What are the MAP Assessments?

Over the past month, your child has been assessed on the MAP Assessments. MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) is an assessment administered on a computer. It is an adaptive assessment with selected response items that is given to students in the both the fall and the spring. The difficulty of the test will adjust to the students’ performance. As they answer a question correctly, the questions will become harder and if questions are answered incorrectly, the questions will become easier. The MAP testing provides information on both student achievement and academic growth in math skills over time. The tests are designed to find out exactly where each student is performing and identify specific skills to help students grow.

- MAP-P is the assessment given in the primary grades (Grade K-2) measuring math performance.
- MAP-M is the assessment given in the intermediate grades (Grades 3 – 5) measuring math performance.
- MAP-r is the assessment given in the intermediate grades (Grades 3 – 5) measuring reading comprehension.

\*We are focused on each student making significant growth from the fall to the spring.



The 5<sup>th</sup> Grade students on the steps of Healy Hall at Georgetown University. The students spent the day meeting with the head football coach, touring classes and dorms, and engaging in conversations with college students about their experience.

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### **Kindergarten News – Mrs. Frank, Mrs. Diallo, Ms. Ali, Mrs. Carbone, Ms. Miller, Mrs. Beckett and Mrs. Wiz**

We can't believe the first quarter of kindergarten is over. The kindergarteners have been asking and answering questions about non-fiction books. They have also learned 11 word wall words; a, I, like, to, see, we, me, will, go, and, the. Please practice reading and writing these words at home. We have also begun writing simple sentences. The children are using the word wall words, spaces, and stretching out sounds to write. In science we have learned about clouds, the wind, and the water cycle. In social studies we have just started learning about models, globes, and landforms. In math we are working on comparing the length of objects using the words longer and shorter. The kindergarteners have also been working on counting and identifying numbers 1-20.

Thank you so much to the parents who volunteered on our field trip to the farm. The kids really enjoyed the farm. Keep a look out for our next permission slip to the Imagination Stage on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

When the weather is colder, please make sure your child wears a coat, gloves, and a hat. Please write your child's name inside their clothing if possible. The kindergarten teachers enjoyed meeting with you during conferences to share what your child has been learning. Thanks for all of your support of our Kindergarten Gators.

### **News from First Grade – Mrs. Correa, Ms. Rodriguez, Mrs. Ralph, Mr. Cord, and Mrs. Lozzi**

At the end of October, 1<sup>st</sup> graders enjoyed a walking field trip to Brookside Gardens where they collected leaves and seeds, studied parts of plants, and brought home a potted plant! Thank you to all the parent volunteers that chaperoned. We couldn't do it without you! We also welcomed a new team member, Miss Gloria Hwang as an additional 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher. The students made a smooth transition to their new classroom. Thank you parents for your flexibility. Our goal is always what is best for the students. In November the 1<sup>st</sup> Graders will be writing a narrative piece on where they live, work, or play using background knowledge and answering questions about who, what, where, when, why, and how. They are strengthening their skills at capitalization and spelling word wall words correctly. In reading they will read a Jr. Great Books folktale as well as a Jr. Great Books poem where they engage in rich discussions asking and answering questions for deeper understanding. Please make sure that any books used in guided reading that are sent home for night-time reading are returned daily to school in their bag so that instruction can continue.

In math, students will continue learning place value and learn how to compose 2-digit numbers in multiple ways. They will develop fluency in 1-and 2 digit addition and subtraction as well as continue working on word problem strategies. Please encourage your child to use strategies learned in school in their homework and in any extra math practice at home. In science, students will be learning about living and non-living objects as well as changes in objects' motions. Students will learn and explore magnets at the end of the quarter. In social studies students will be sharing their family's customs and traditions. Please make sure you share your customs and traditions with your child. We will also be learning about cultural artifacts so please share with your child any artifacts from your culture and the importance of them. The first week of December we will be having a cultural brunch where all families will be able to share their food! We look forward to seeing many of you there! We will send more information about our cultural brunch very soon. Thank you for your continued support at home!

### **News From Second Grade – Mrs. Navas, Mrs. Treichler, Mrs. Grotewold, Ms. Shider, Mrs. Genua, Ms. Komara**

Thanks parents for all of your support during the first marking period! Our second graders have made great progress in all areas. Remember that there is journal homework and math homework every night. Also, students should read for 20 minutes every day. Are you reading to your child? Research shows that listening to reading is beneficial for children, even in second grade! We have many upcoming field trips. Please be sure to return the field trip permission forms and money by each due date! We use this information to plan for transportation, snacks, and grouping.

Thanks to those who have been able to chaperone on our trips to Brookside Gardens and The Smith Center.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the Second Grade Family Potluck dinner on November 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. Please let your child's teacher know if you plan to attend! Please contact us with any questions!

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### **News from Fourth Grade – Mrs. Mayer, Mr. Sabia, Mrs. Hubbard, Mrs. Walsh**

It is amazing how fast quarter one flew by! After your parent-teacher conference please review your child's grades with him/her. This would be a good time to have a conversation about academic goal setting for the second quarter.

**Reading** — In the next few weeks we will be studying plays and poetry. We will identify the characteristics of each and compare the similarities and differences.

**Please monitor your child's reading at home. They should be reading for at least 25 minutes each night and recording what they read on their reading log (due every Friday). Students should also be completing Word Their Way assignments each night.**

**Math** — Students will be learning different strategies to multiply up to a four-digit by a one-digit number. They will also learn area and perimeter formulas and how to apply them to a variety of problems. It would benefit children to work towards mastery of their multiplication and division facts.

**Writing** — Students will be delving into various styles of poetry and creating their own pieces.

**Science** — We will continue to learn about living and nonliving things, categorization in nature, and ecosystems.

#### **Special Events and Reminders:**

- Look for a permission slip in your child's folder about our upcoming field trip to the Smith Center on December 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup>.
- With the weather changing daily, please be sure your child comes to school dressed appropriately for outdoor recess.

### **News from Grade 5 – Ms. Gottshall, Ms. DeFrehn, Mrs. Billings**

5<sup>th</sup> graders had an exciting month in October. We were Hoyas for a day at Georgetown University. The students were able to listen to inspiring words from a Georgetown football player. We also attended a jazz concert at the Strathmore Music Hall. We are very proud of the behavior of our fifth graders and how well they represent Glenallan. On November 7, we will be visiting Mount Vernon, the home of former president George Washington! Students will be able to see the history that we have been studying in social studies, actually come alive. The 5<sup>th</sup> graders recently took the reading MAP-R assessment and the math MAP-M assessment. Please ask your child about their test scores, and celebrate their success.

The 5<sup>th</sup> graders are super excited about the technology in our classrooms. The chrome books allow students to be actively engaged in the learning process. We have been using the chrome books to research important leaders during the Revolutionary War, practicing math skills and improve our typing skills. We are excited to continue to implement the chrome books in our daily routine. We are enjoyed meeting with parents to discuss our fifth grade successes during Parent Conferences!

**“Everybody in this country should learn how to program a computer . . . because it teaches you how to think.”- Steve Jobs**

During the week of December 9 – December 15 2013 all students in grades kindergarten through grade 5 will doing an hour of coding. This is a part of Computer Science Education Week, which is a celebration geared to encourage interest in the computer science and to show that anyone can learn the basics. We believe this is a wonderful opportunity to expose students to the way technology works and how it helps us to creatively solve problems. As you know, today, we're surrounded by technology. Many students have their own tablets and phones—and yet, few are learning how computers actually work. Simple computer science activities can help nurture creativity and problem solving skills. By getting a feel for computational thinking early, students will have a foundation for success in any future career path.

#### **Important Facts about the Importance of Computer Science Education**

Students who learn introductory computer science show improved math scores.

- 90% of K-12 schools in the U.S. do not teach computer science.
- In many countries (including China, the United Kingdom and Australia), computer science is—or soon will be—required.
- All students can learn the basics, starting in elementary school, but fewer than 10% of students (and just 4% of female students, 3% of students of color) take computer science classes.



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### Exploring the "M" in STEM!

Thank you to the 150 Glenallan families that came out to Family Math Night on Tuesday, October 7, 2014. Families had a great time exploring the "M" in STEM while participating in activities that brought out our Gator's top notch problem solving skills. Our families with students in Kindergarten through Second Grade, had the chance to experience Coding with Mr. Yongpradit while our families with students in Grades 3-5, applied problem solving strategies while playing "Power Lines". All families had the opportunity to participate in the Paper Airplane Challenge where they designed and built a paper airplane that would carry the most paperclips while flying in the air. They also participated in the Index Card Tower Challenge where they built a tower that could be at least two feet tall and can hold the weight of a pencil using only 100 index cards. Many thanks again to all of the teachers, families and the rest of the Glenallan community that made this such a successful night!











### News from the Glenallan Media Center

This marking period students have been getting in the routine of checking out books for independent reading and for classroom assignments. Students can exchange books when their class comes to Media for a special and also every day between 8:30-9:00. It is great to see them excited about selecting their own books and reading! The kindergartners have been going to the computer lab and learning how to log in with their personal username and password! The younger students have been using two programs at school that they can also use at home. Have them show you PebbleGo Databases <http://www.pebblego.com> (Username is glenallan, password is school) and Learn to Read at Starfall <http://www.starfall.com> (no username and password needed). Third and fifth graders have received their chromebooks and are excited about learning with this new technology!

When you and your child are reading together, what strategies do you notice he or she is using? Are they stretching out their words, skipping words and going back, and asking themselves if what they read makes sense? Below is a list of strategies your child uses in school. Please encourage your child to use these strategies when reading with them!

## What can you do when you get stuck on a word?

<b>Look at the picture</b> 	<b>Get your mouth ready</b> 	<b>Stretch it out</b> m - a - p  map	<b>Chunk the word!</b> (ch-ew-ing) 	<b>Flip the Vowel</b> 	<b>Skip and come back</b> 	<b>Reread</b> 	<b>Think what makes sense</b> 
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## George B. Thomas Saturday School

George B. Thomas Saturday School from 8:30-11:00 a.m. at Kennedy High School The following is required to register:

\* **A registration fee of \$30 for FARMS / \$50 for non-FARMS.** A payment plan is available and can be completed at registration. Cash, checks, or money orders (made payable to GBTLA or The George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy) are accepted.

### PARENTS PLEASE REMEMBER TO:

1. **Sign up for the PTA** - \$10 per family – application is on the web or email  
Glenallapta@gmail.com
2. **Volunteer** around school, at lunch, in the media center, for an event, in the classroom

### Receive MCPS Emergency Information

MCPS parents can receive emergency information from the school system in a variety of ways including *MCPS QuickNotes*, Alert MCPS, Twitter, the MCPS website, MCPS TV, and a recorded telephone information line. Please visit [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency) for more information on how to keep in touch with Montgomery County Public Schools and stay informed in times of emergencies.

### MyLunchMoney.com

myLunchMoney.com is a service which allows parents to make prepayments to their child's cafeteria account with a credit/debit card using the Internet. Once the account is established, you can check balances, view student purchases, set up recurring payments, and receive low balance e-mail notification. Prepayments will generally be available at the school the next day. Go to [www.myLunchMoney.com](http://www.myLunchMoney.com) and click on "**Enroll Now.**" For more information, click here to refer to **Frequently Asked Questions** ([English](#) or [Spanish](#)).



### *Important Dates for the Gators in November*

November 18	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Potluck Dinner	6:00 p.m.
November 19	2 <sup>nd</sup> grade Trip to Strathmore	
November 21	Pancakes with the Principals	
November 21	SGA Speeches	10:00 a.m.
November 25	InView Testing – Grade 2	
November 26	Early Dismissal	12:35 p.m.
November 27	No School – Thanksgiving	
November 28	No School - Thanksgiving	



### Character Counts

Glenallan is Character Counts School. We will focus on character education in addition to education/academics. The development of character is a significant indicator of success in school and life. We will focus on one character trait per month and recognize a student from each class who has demonstrated this trait consistently at school. These recognitions will take place during awards assemblies and having "pancakes with the principals" during that month.

The character trait for the month of October is **Gratitude**. Staff will be looking for students demonstrating respect at school, in the community, and focusing on it through instruction.

"Let us remember that, as much has been given us, much will be expected from us, and that true homage comes from the heart as well as from the lips, and shows itself in deeds." -Theodore Roosevelt