

# Glenallan Elementary School

*"Every Gator Rises to Extraordinary Excellence"*



## Gator Gazette

May 2015

### Important May 2015 Dates

May 6 – Parent Meeting 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

May 7 – STEM EXPO 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

May 12 – Volunteer Appreciation Night

May 18 – Spring Concert/Arts Show

May 20 – International Night 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

May 25 – Memorial Day – No School

Dear Glenallan Families,

The days of the 2014 – 2015 school year are **numbered**, and we believe this is a critical time to reflect and recognize the **collaboration and commitment of the students, parents and staff** who comprise our community. Parents and teachers alike are people who we continually need to appreciate and respect. It is hard work, but the rewards are significant and impacts are endless. We, the Glenallan community do something that will outlast us. It's like the quote I recently shared with some staff members, **"The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit."** Together, we plant trees every year. We believe that together as a team we've planted some beautiful trees this year.

During the month of May and June, we will focus on several things to ensure a safe and successful final six weeks to the school year. They are the following:

- Continue high quality and differentiated instruction to support students meeting their academic goals that they have set with their teacher and family.
- Work hard to maximize teaching time and maintain focus on learning by overcoming the challenges of multiple assessments.
- Collect student, staff, and parent data to determine the success of our school improvement plan and help us to build on the success with the construction of next year's plan.
- Participate in discussions to construct academically and socially balanced classes to ensure students have the foundation for academic success next school year.
- Participate in culminating activities to celebrate the successes of who we are as a community as well as our academic and social successes

As we prepare to reflect as a community on our achievements and areas of growth this school year, let's remember the importance of the saying, **"It's not what you have, it's who you have.** The "what" is something very nice – a school that was built not even two years ago with increasingly brand new technology, shiny floors, freshly painted lockers, and new furniture. But it's the "who" that matters. It's the "who" that makes our community special: **the motivated and spirited students, a first class group of educators, and you, supportive, encouraging and positive families.**

Finally, I thank you for your support of Glenallan to achieve its ultimate purpose, providing exceptional teaching and learning that ensures the success and development of good character for **every** student. We will continue to relentlessly pursue this purpose for the remainder of the school year and throughout the summer.

Respectfully,

Mr. Moran

### Glenallan Parent Meeting: State of the School – May 6, 2015 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

On Wednesday, May 6, 2015 please come and join us in the media center to discuss instructional programming, staffing, and budgetary topics that will be impact our transition to next school year. The final 15 minutes will be open for parents to ask any questions. Translation will be provided in Spanish.

### STEM EXPO – Thursday, May 7, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

On Thursday, May 7 please join us in the all-purpose room and gymnasium for our 1<sup>st</sup> student led STEM Expo. Students have been working very hard to create innovative projects that represent our focus of STEM centric learning. There will be opportunities for students to participate in hands on learning and discussions with students and teachers. We hope to see you there!



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

Only one more month to go before our kindergarteners are first graders! All the teachers have been busy preparing our kids for the transition to first grade. In math, students have been solving word problems. They have also been working on decomposing and composing numbers to 10. We will also be collecting and recording data. In writing, we will be composing informational texts. In reading, we will be identifying the main idea and key details in a story. In science, we will be identifying external features of animals. In social studies, we will learn about different cultures and traditions. This month we will be assessing the students' reading levels while administering the MCLASS assessment. We won't be sending as many guided reading books home, but keep reading every night.

We have a lot of fun events coming up. We will have our family partnership event on Friday, May 15 at 9:30; we will be making pupusas. Please let your child's teacher know if you can help with this fun activity.

- May 19<sup>th</sup> is our field trip to the zoo. If you can chaperone, please let your child's teacher know. We need at least 4 chaperones per class.
- May 26<sup>th</sup> is field day for kindergarten. Please wear comfortable clothes and tennis shoes.
- June 5<sup>th</sup> is our field trip to the Natural Museum of History. Permission slips will be sent home in May.
- June 12<sup>th</sup> Picnic and end of the year slide show.

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

Wow! First grade has flown by and we couldn't be more proud of how much our gators have grown and how much they have accomplished in one year. We would like to thank the parents for their continued support of the students throughout the year and all that you have helped with. All of the field trips; Home Depot's bird houses, trips to Brookside Garden, and our trip to the Maryland Science Center. Your help is always appreciated and always a great help.

As the year comes to a close it is extremely important to keep a few things in mind to continue the growth of your child during the summer months. One is to be sure your child is getting some form of reading in **each and every day**. This single action can help a child grow more than any other. A second thing is to ask questions....tons of questions! First graders have become great critical thinkers. Leave your questions open ended and make sure they have plenty of details in their answers. If you can't have them answer right away have them write it down. Writing practice will help them continue making detailed sentences and putting thoughts to paper. Finally, be sure to practice math facts. The first graders know various strategies to solve math equations but they need to continue practicing them to keep a strong grasp on how to solve them. We wish you all a wonderful end to the school year and look forward to seeing you before summer break!

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

It has been a great month in second grade! Our focus for the marking period is "Effort, Motivation, and Persistence." Students are learning to understand these words and use them to reach their goals. We have used effort, motivation, and persistence in all content areas already! Students have learned many different place value strategies for 3 digit addition and basic facts. Ask your child to show you 2 ways they could add  $255+178$ ! Ask your child what would be a good strategy for adding  $6+7$ ! Remember that we focus on students developing a deep understanding of numbers and place value rather than memorization of facts or steps. Feel free to ask your child's teacher any questions you may have! In the last month, students have read and written several poems. They have learned about poetic techniques such as metaphors, similes, and haikus. Second graders have used the writing process to publish their poetry. Ask your child to share one of their poems with you!

Thanks for your support with reminding your child to complete their homework and read every night! Please contact us with any questions!

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### **News from Third Grade-***Ms. Davies, Ms. Edhegard, Mrs. Ghee, and Ms. Nansimbi*

Thank you for all of your continued support!

**Brookside Gardens Field Trip:** Our students will be walking to Brookside Gardens this month to learn about habitats and life cycles of plants in our area. This relates to what we have been studying in our Life Sciences Unit this marking period.

**Multiplication Facts:** As you know, the goal is for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders to know all products, from memory, of 2 one-digit numbers. Please continue to practice these facts, daily, with your child. This is a good time to bring out the flash cards.

**Telling Time:** Please practice having your child to tell time on an analog (non-digital) clock to the nearest minute. Also, create real life elapsed time problems for your child to solve. For example: You woke up at 7:30 this morning and left your house for school at 8:50. How much time has passed?

**Donations Needed:** Your children have been hard at work at school! As a result, we are in need of additional paper towels, tissues, pencils, post-it notes, and erasers. We truly appreciate any items that you might be able to contribute. Thank you in advance!!

**Reminder:** As we approach the end of the year, we need to remind students that they need to continue to focus and put forth their best efforts to be the best student they can be.

As always, please let us know if you have any questions or concerns

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

Happy spring!!! We hope you and your families had a wonderful spring break. Well, it is almost that time of the year; the countdown to the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion. Go ahead and get your calendars out so that you can mark the dates of the upcoming events.

**May 27** – 5<sup>th</sup> / 6<sup>th</sup> grade Mixer at Lee Middle School 5:00- 7:00 – students received a flyer from the Lee Principal, Kimberly Hayden Williams when she came to Glenallan to meet the incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders on April 22.

**May 28** – Chorus Performance 7-8:30

**June 3-** Field Day

**June 5** – Third Annual Talent Show 6:30-8:30 at Kennedy High School

**June 10** – Awards Ceremony

**June 11** – Promotion Ceremony 10:00 – 12:00 at Kennedy High School

Please contact us if you have any questions regarding these events. We look forward to a fun and exciting end of the school year as the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students reflect and celebrate on their years spent as a Glenallan Gator.

*One School, One Community, One Goal.....The Success of Every Glenallan Gator*

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## Spring 2015 Parent Academy Schedule

Registration is open for the 2014 spring session of the MCPS Parent Academy. Parent Academy workshops give parents useful tips and tools to support their children's success in and out of school. A wide array of topics will be covered during the spring season including: college entrance exams, effective parenting strategies, cybersafety and social media.

### Families and Libraries Go Together

MONDAY, MAY 4 6:00-7:30 P.M.

Your Public Library is a great resource for events, activities, materials and summer reading programs for children. Our library offers Early Literacy resources for young ones, books and music for all ages, and Homework Help, too. We have Family Storytimes, free WiFi, and public access computers. We can teach you to use applications to download free music, e-Books, or eAudiobooks, and language learning tools from our website. All of these resources are available with a library card. Presented by Montgomery County Public Library staff. Aspen Hill Library, 4407 Aspen Hill Road, Rockville 20853

### Raising Responsible Teens

WEDNESDAY MAY 6 7:00-8:30 P.M.

You can't make a child be responsible, but you can provide plenty of opportunities for the child to learn how to be responsible. Discover new ways to encourage responsible behavior in your children and to lay the groundwork for successful adulthood. Presented by YMCA Youth & Family Services. Sligo Middle School, 1401 Dennis Avenue, Silver Spring 20902

### Breaking the Bullying Cycle

MONDAY, MAY 11 7:00-8:30 P.M.

Teasing, rumors and exclusion are defined as bully behaviors. Learn how to recognize the signs and effects of bullying, along with tips and strategies to help your child deal with these behaviors at school. Presented by Family Services, Inc.

Col. E. Brooke Lee Middle School, 11800 Monticello Avenue, Silver Spring 20902



May 6	Parent Coffee: 9:00 a.m. Media Center
May 7	STEM Expo 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
May 12	PTA/Volunteer Appreciation 6:30 p.m.
May 14	Patrol Picnic
May 15	First Grade to Maryland Science Center
May 15	Kindergarten Family Partnership Event
May 18	Spring Concert/Arts Show
May 20	International Night
May 25	Memorial Day: No School
May 26	Field Day Pre – K – Grade 2
May 28	Field Day Grade 3 – Grade 5

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### Character Counts:

The character trait for the month of May is Caring. Staff will recognize students who demonstrate honesty at school, in the community, and focusing on it through instruction.

