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**News from First Grade**

The first grade Gators are off to a fantastic start and we are really working hard in all areas of our classrooms!  Thanks so much to all of the families that could make it to Back to School Night; we really appreciate your support and dedication to your children.  Please make sure you check and clean your child’s folder out every night.  We have really been diving into some great books so make sure you are reading and discussing books daily at home.  The students are working so hard to read, write, and spell the new first grade word wall words so please practice the 5 new weekly words with your child.  In math we are counting, writing, and identifying numbers from 1-120 which can also be reinforced at home.  Thank you and we’re looking forward to an exciting and productive year!

**Parents Guardians:**

**Please visit the Public Library. You can borrow books for free and sign up for a free hour of internet use!**

**Wheaton Library**

**240-777-0678**

**11701 Georgia Avenue**

**Wheaton, MD 20902**



**News from Second Grade**

The second grade gators have worked very hard in the first five weeks of school!  They have learned many new routines and they have taken on new responsibilities as second graders.   In science, the second graders have learned about the components that make up the earth: rocks, soil, and water.  Students participated in a hands on activity to visualize all of the places a drop of water could go, such as in the clouds, in groundwater, and on an animal.  Ask your child about the beaded necklace they made as part of this activity!  In social studies, second grade students have created class ground rules, discussed feelings and differing points of view, and planned what they would do in case of an emergency.  In math, students have developed their understanding of numbers.  They can represent three digit numbers in many different ways and compare three digit numbers.  The second graders have used their writing skills to draft personal narratives.  They have learned ways to make their sentences more interesting, such as by using adverbs.  In reading, students have listened to a variety of stories; including Miss Nelson is Missing, "The Red Balloon," and The True Story of the Three Little Pigs.  They have used their reading skills to ask questions, retell stories, and compare different versions of the same story.  Second grade students have become experts at collaborating with others.  They successfully work in pairs and groups to share their knowledge in all subject areas.  Second graders have learned that "two heads are better than one!"  Mrs. Johnson, Ms. Grotewold, Mrs. Treichler and Mrs. Navas are looking forward to another great month full of fun and learning!



**News from Third Grade**

We are off to a great start in third grade!  Here are some ways that you can help your child at home. Please:

1. **Check your child’s homework folder each day and encourage your child to do his/her best work.**
2. **Complete and return important forms promptly.**
3. **Take interest in what your child is reading. Ask questions about the reading and provide your child with positive feedback about their reading.**

Our Spelling Program “Words Their Way” will be beginning soon! We hope your children are enjoying third grade as much as we are!  Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns!



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

### Glenallan Elementary School

**“*Where Gators Go Above and Beyond”***

***Gator Gazette***

***October 2012***

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**News from Fourth Grade**

Fourth grade is off to a great start! In science we have created terrariums and aquariums as part of our ecosystems unit. Everyone is enjoying observing, illustrating, and writing about our critters.

Just a few reminders to parents:

* Please check your child’s binder/folder to make sure you have seen their graded work and important information from the school.
* Check your child’s planner at the beginning of each week and sign it.
* Be sure to sign the field trip permission slip and send in the money to your child’s teacher as soon as possible. Our trip is scheduled for Tuesday, October 23rd. Each class can take two parent volunteers.



**News from Fifth Grade C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\MEDIA\CAGCAT10\j0217698.wmf**

Fifth grade is off to an amazing start this school year! In reading, we have been focused on historical fiction novels. Students have been learning how the setting affects the plot of a story and how to make inferences from the books they are reading. Students are continuing to complete book recommendations to help them achieve their goal of reading 25 books this year. By the end of October students should have read at least 7 books to keep them on pace to accomplish the 25 book goal.

In math students are expected to have a solid foundation of their basic math facts in order to help them learn new lessons more easily. Students will be learning about multiples, factors, prime and composite numbers, and divisibility rules in October. In math 6 students will be completing their focus on data analysis and begin to work with fractions and decimals soon.

Please remember to try to attend the middle school meetings for the school that your child is interested in attending next year. All applications are due by November 2nd!



**Reading Strategies and Tips from the Reading Team**

You are your child’s first and most important teacher. Throughout the first years of school, teachers are helping your child develop reading skills that will help them to become proficient readers. Keep in mind that learning to read takes practice, practice and more practice–much more than a child can get during a school day. You can provide reading opportunities and extra guidance at home by simply implementing the activities and tips stated below:

* Provide your child with the appropriate background knowledge and give them the tools they need to apply to whatever kind of book you’re reading together.
* Encourage more reading time and less TV time every night.
* Think out loud about the pictures you see or the questions that may arise while you are reading with your child.
* Let your child act as the teacher. Take turns coming up with questions, making predictions, and summarizing what is happening in the story.
* Provide reading material that is interesting and relevant to your child. Visit the public library often!

**\*Upcoming Reading Incentive**: The “Book It” program for grades K-5 begins October 1st! Read your books and earn coupons for some free, delicious pizza! More information coming home soon.



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**Physical Education Program UpdatesC:\Users\moranpet\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\QMW0AFG9\MC900060327[1].wmf**

Greetings from Mr. Kogok. The Physical Education classes have been focused on getting all students moving and experiencing the changes which occur in our bodies when we exercise. The primary grades are focused on the safe use of self-space and general space, as well as learning the fundamental locomotor and non-locomotor skills. Our upper grades are learning about the four types of exercise and examples of each, Muscular strength, muscular endurance, flexibility and cardio respiratory endurance. We are looking forward to an exciting year in physical education.



**MUSIC ** <http://ztilkens.wix.com/glenallanchorus>

Chorus auditions were held last Thursday and I am happy to announce we will have 61 fourth and fifth graders in the Gator Chorus this year. Regular rehearsals started Thursday, September 21st and will meet each Thursday from 9:35-10:20 in the APR.

Grades pre-k – 2 have been working hard on learning to listen, and practice: Steady beat, following musical cues, following music and moving to music using locomotor and non-locomotor motions.

Grades 3, 4, 5 have been learning to read and notate music, and sing in Unison. In addition 5th grade is working on designing and planning their own procession, 4th grade is discussing the word “admiration” and how it can apply to music, 3rd grade is really impressing me by finding the meter of a song quickly and telling me why it’s important to be organized in life and with music.



**MEDIA CENTER **

The Library Media Center has been very busy checking books out to all students. They were very excited to choose books to take home and read! Every class visits once a week for a lesson and book exchange. Students have been learning about the different areas of the media center so that they can find their favorite books! Please ask your child what day they come to the media center so that you can remind them to bring their books back on that day each week.



**ART**

The art room is humming with creativity! We are focusing on the basics of the elements of art in all grade levels. K-2 students are learning about Lines and Shapes and color. Ask your kindergartener to sing you the song about lines. K and 1st graders can make many different types of lines. 2nd graders learned to make art using a set of art elements (line, shape and color) to create a work of art. They also discussed how to create a mood using these elements. 3rd graders are working on Portraits in the style of Modigliani. 4th graders have been learning to draw figures in action and looked at the art of Keith Haring at [www.haringkids.com](http://www.haringkids.com). 5th graders just finished making beautiful stained glass creations and will be moving on to design a clay tile. We have some of the best artists here at Glenallan. If you haven’t had a chance to see our spectacular mosaic made by last year’s 5th graders it is a MUST SEE!!!



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October 16th PTA Sponsored Assembly

October 17th 5th Grade to Strathmore

October 17th McDonald’s Night New Hampshire Ave.

October 18th Lifetouch Portraits

October 18th Glenallan Movie Night 6:30 – 8:30

Ocotber 23rd 4th Grade Field Trip – Close Encounters with Agriculture

October 23rd Head Start Field Trip

October 26th Pancakes with the Principal – Respect

October 31st Halloween Parade 2:15/Parties 2:45



**Character Counts:**

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

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***Important Dates for the Gators in October***

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**Calling all Volunteers**

If you are interested in volunteering to work with the Glenallan PTA please contact, glenallangators@gmail.com



**George B. Thomas Saturday School**

This coming Saturday, September 15 is early registration for the George B. Thomas Saturday School from 8:30-11:00 a.m. 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.

**\* The student's most recent report card.**



**School Improvement Plan:**

**What is our Academic Focus for 2012 – 2013?**

**Math Focus**

1. 1)Collaboratively plan and implement daily high quality small group instruction that reflects the following key components:

* using data to create flexible groups
* lessons that address all learners
* math discourse and a balance between student and teacher talk
* (informal)formative assessments
* incorporating student interests and learning styles
* Higher Order Thinking questions with all groups

2) Increase student discourse through utilizing higher order thinking questions and having students engage in meaningful conversations.

**Reading Focus**

1. Improve the consistency and quality of our daily differentiated guided reading instruction.
2. Increase student’s higher order thinking skills through questioning implementing critical thinking, evaluation, and synthesis.
3. Increase consistency and quality of writing workshop/writing instruction

**Pay for your child’s lunch on line**

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/)

**PARENTS PLEASE REMEMBER TO:**

1. **Sign up for the PTA** - $10 per family – application is on the web or email Glenallapta@gmail.com
2. **Purchase a brick** to help us buy a new sign for the new school. If each student gets one person to purchase one or donate, we are that much closer to our goal of $14K – form on the web
3. **Volunteer** around school, at lunch, in the media center, for an event, in the classroom

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