



Blue Note: Galway Chronicle

Yolanda Stanislaus, Principal

Jason Reinke, Assistant Principal

Volume 2, Issue 17 Home of the Galway Lions where Readers are Leaders! December 23, 2011

THE COUNSELOR'S CORNER—MS. CURTIS

GIFTS

Give the gift of ACCEPTANCE: Teach those around you that they are loved for what they are, not for what they do or even for how much they please you. Give this gift with a KISS!

Give the gift of SELF-CONFIDENCE: Do this by helping them understand and accept that no one can be approved of all the time and that when one encounters disapproval he should not feel upset, that he must trust himself, not the opinion of others. Give this gift with a HUG!

Give them the gift of POSSIBILITIES: Let your child know that he/she can be anything that he or she desires to do. Help them reject roles and labels that others may place on them. Give this gift with a SMILE!

Give them the gift of life without needless fears. This can be done by not being a worrier yourself. Show them that you tackle problems and not just sit around and fret about them. Encourage them to be doers as well. Give this gift with a LAUGH!

Give them the gift of being a person who has a spark and an appreciation for all life. Allow them to have adventures, a chance for laughter, fun, creativity. Give this gift as they go out the door.

For all these gifts will last forever!

Author Unknown

A READING NEW YEAR!

Experts in child literacy are unanimous in their belief that parents should read with their children. The power of the parent-child bond has a positive effect on a child's attitude toward reading and his ability to read. Try the suggestions below to help make reading with your child both a pleasure and a learning experience.

1. **Choose the right book using the "five-finger rule."** Have your child open the book to any page in the middle of the book and read that page. Each time she/he comes across a word she/he does not know, she/he should hold up a finger. If she gets to five fingers before she finishes reading the page, the book is too hard.
2. **Use the story to help your child learn.**
 - ◆ Ask your child what word or idea would make sense in the plot of the story when she gets stuck on an unfamiliar word.
 - ◆ Encourage your child to look at illustrations, pictures, titles, or graphs to figure out the meaning of new words.



Calendar Items

WINTER BREAK

Mon. Dec. 26 - Mon. Jan. 2

HAPPY NEW YEAR

- Tues. Jan. 3** - Welcome Back!!!
- Tues. Jan. 10** - **Highly Gifted Center Testing**
(Grade 3 students who applied)
- Mon. Jan. 16** - **NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday**
- Wed. Jan. 18** - **Chuck E Cheese 3:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**
- Mon. Jan. 23** - **NO SCHOOL—Professional Day**

Principal's Comments!



Dear Galway Families,

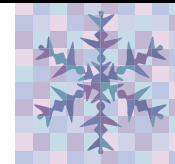
Thank you to all of my families who donated new toys and food for others in need. Our SGA did an outstanding job and all of the collected items will go to a local family shelter. On behalf of all of us at Galway we wish you a joyous holiday and a Happy New Year!

Ms. Stanislaus
Principal

PROJECT ReFRESH

Project ReFresh is underway at Galway Elementary School! Project ReFresh is a program funded by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service Team Nutrition Training Grant and is a joint effort between the Maryland State Department of Education and the University of Maryland Extension. Team Nutrition helps to apply the 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans to the lives of our children by promoting lifelong healthy eating and encouraging physical activity. Project ReFresh helps our entire school make healthy food choices in the cafeteria through nutrition education, promotion of healthy foods and increased interactions between the students and cafeteria staff. Healthy foods such as fruits, vegetables and whole grains are encouraged and “featured” in the cafeteria line. Galway’s Principal, Ms. Stanislaus is encouraging the program by making daily nutrition announcements that support the Project ReFresh goals. In addition to changes in the cafeteria, this years’ 4th grade class is being introduced to fruits, vegetables and whole grains through activities, food demonstrations and tastings in the classroom. Each month, the University of Maryland Extension provides nutrition education that relates to the topics of 4th grade curriculum. Be sure to ask your 4th grader to share the newsletter and recipe which will be sent home each month so that you can further encourage your kids to eat healthy and make great choices!

Kindergarten News



Ms. String • Ms. Yoo • Ms. Kim • Ms. Castaneda
 Ms. Wilson • Ms. DeVan • Ms. Wesolowski • Ms. Harrison

Reminders

Please be sure to read with your child every night and record on their homework!
 Homework is to be returned to school on Tuesdays.
 Please return guided reading folders **the next day** with completed homework inside and reading log signed.
 Please remember to send in money no later than January 12th for our field trip to the Baltimore Aquarium!

Spotlight on Academics

The third marking period is quickly approaching! During the month of January, we will be reviewing many of the concepts taught in all subject areas during the second marking period. In reading, we will be continuing to ask questions before, during and after reading in order to increase comprehension. We will also be focusing on the importance of text features in non-fiction texts. In writing, we are focusing on following our writing rules during writer’s workshop. In math, we are using ordinal numbers to describe the location of objects. We are also counting to 100 by ones and tens! In social studies, we will discuss the ways that people adapt to weather changes. In science, we will be receiving mealworms and we will make observations of how they grow and change!

Home Extensions

This is the time of year where you will see your students begin to make leaps and bounds! Our focus is to make your children the best readers and writers possible and to get them on the right path toward 1st grade. Please remember to practice writing on a daily basis with your children. Allow them to answer comprehension questions about a story in written form. Remind them to use uppercase letters at the beginning of a sentence, a space between words, and an ending mark. Encourage the use of letter sounds and make sure sight words are spelled correctly! Continue making math a part of everyday life! Make a batch of cookies and have your child help you measure the ingredients. Count the number of shoes in your closet. If that is too easy...count by 2’s, 5’s and 10’s! Measure how much your child grows each month. Incorporating these little ideas into everyday tasks will help your child learn and they will have fun doing it!

First Grade News

Mr. Aaronson • Mrs. Kinsey • Ms. Douglas-Flynn • Mrs. Duvall
Mrs. O'Connor • Ms. Stuart • Ms. Sullivan • Ms. Walsh • Mrs. Wooler
First Grade blog www.togetheragain.edublogs.org



Spotlight on Academics- January

January will mark the end of Marking Period 2, and is the halfway mark of the year!

Unifying Questions: Each week we have a unifying question that links our different subjects together. These questions help the students think about what behaviors help them learn. Asking questions, trying new strategies, or talking to a classmate are three examples of behaviors that help students succeed in school. These are the Unifying Questions for January:

How does being willing to share ideas, ask questions, or try new tasks help you learn?

How does being willing to change help you solve a challenging problem?

How does using strategies help you solve problems or meet goals?

Reading: Students have been learning how to identify the main events. In January, we will go a step further by using the main events to identify the central message in a book.

Math: If your child sees " $13 - 6$ " how does he or she solve it? Does he or she know more than one way? Many of our students use their fingers. We want to teach the students faster, more strategic ways to solve unknown addition and subtraction problems. For example, if your child knows that $6+7=13$, he does not need to count backwards or use his fingers. That's an example of being "fluent" with addition and subtraction facts.

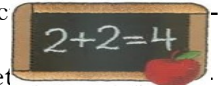
Writing & Social Studies: Each child will create and publish a timeline of their life from birth to First Grade. We will use everything we have learned about capitalization, organization, word choice and sequencing as we write about how people change over time.

Science: Students are exploring magnets and how objects can be classified by their reactions to magnets. We will learn about magnet strength and develop a way of classifying magnets by strength.

Memorizing Math Facts

In November, we distributed math addition and subtraction cards to each family. We encourage your children to play with the math facts cards. If you need new cards, send a note to your child's teacher. First Graders should be memorizing single digit addition facts from $0 + 0$ to $9 + 9$. Memorization of single digit addition and subtraction facts is so important and should be memorized as students learn 2- and 3-digit addition and subtraction.

Every Friday, First Grade classrooms are playing games we call "Math Olympics." The goal is to get excited about Math. We hope your child is practicing addition and subtraction facts at home too!



Second Grade News

Mrs. Bittner • Mrs. Carter • Ms. Miller • Mr. Morina
Mrs. Morstein (Mrs. Mathews) • Mrs. Newman • Mrs. Nicholls • Mr. Szybalski

Reminders

Sign your child's weekly learning skills sheet.

Make sure your children are reading each night.

Spend one night reading together. Discuss the book and practice asking and answering questions together.

Look out for the date for our upcoming Quarter 2

Parent Night focused on the TerraNova 2 Assessment which students will take in April.

Spotlight on Academics

Our critical thinking skill focus this quarter is analyzing. We are practicing the concept of analyzing in all subjects. In Social Studies, we are analyzing customs and traditions and how they change. In Science, we will study objects and analyze the importance of their parts.

We have been busy reading and writing folktales. In January, we will finish writing our own version of a folktale. In reading, we will continue to ask and answer questions in order to clarify and monitor our understanding of the text. We will also focus on analyzing informational text in order to determine the main idea.

In math this month we will begin to work with money. We will practice adding and subtraction coins and bills as well as analyzing and solving word problems dealing with money.

Donations Wanted

Please help keep our classrooms stocked. If you would like to donate any one of the following we would greatly appreciate it. Thanks in advance!

- Sharpened pencils
- Glue sticks
- Envelopes
- Tissue boxes
- Eraser caps

Home Extensions

Practicing math facts at home is very important. Encourage your children to use doubles facts, near doubles facts, making a ten, and other strategies to help them practice their addition and subtraction facts. Check out some of these online addition and subtraction games!

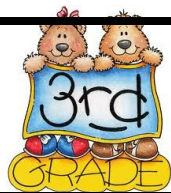
Island Chase Subtraction

http://www.arcademicskillbuilders.com/games/island_chase/island_chase.html

CrossheSwamp <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/starship/maths/crosstheswamp.shtml>

Minus Mission

<http://www.arcademicskillbuilders.com/games/mission/mission.html>



Third Grade News

Mrs. Regan • Ms. Palmer • Ms. Riddick
Ms. Hobson • Ms. Schaefer • Mrs. Riebman

Reminders

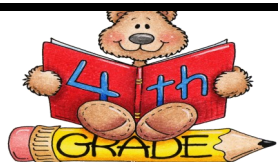
Homework is given each night.
Please make sure your child reads for 25 minutes each night.
Learning Skills will come home every Monday. Please sign and return.
If you send in any money for your child, please send it in an envelope with your child's name, teacher, and grade.
Winter Break Begins **Monday, December 26th** through **Monday, January 2nd**.

Celebrations

We would like to welcome **Mrs. Riebman** to the 3rd grade team!! Please stop by and say hello to welcome her to our Galway family!!

Spotlight on Academics

We are all really excited and working hard in 3rd grade. In math, students are beginning their study of Unit 3. Students will learn multiplication and division facts and strategies. The use of estimation techniques will be used to determine solutions. Also, students will demonstrate a mastery of math facts 0, 1, 2, 5, and 10. Please have students practice their basic multiplication and division facts each night. Students will begin reading for literary experience. The genres we will focus on are folktales and fables. Students will be able to identify the characteristics of these genres. Students will also be able to compare different versions of the same story. In Social Studies, we are discussing human-made characteristics and how they change the world around us. Also, students will be able to identify the needs that are satisfied by the human-made features. In science, we will begin our study of the science behind fingerprinting and chromatography.



Fourth Grade News

Ms. Amanguana • Ms. Jackson • Ms. Kostaris
Mr. Lotz • Ms. Schultz • Ms. Smith

Reminders

Please continue to sign and return learning skills as soon as possible.
Please work closely with your student to make an artifact for our Native American Museum and Pow Wow.

Celebrations

We had a wonderful 1st semester.

We look forward to moving into the New Year with our fourth graders!
Happy New Year!



Spotlight on Academics



In **Math**, we are completing our study of Unit 2 and preparing for our Unit 2 Assessment on the following concepts: Identifying factors and multiples, expressions and equations.

In **reading**, we are reading for literary experience. We have completed our genre study on fantasy. We are now reviewing story elements of a different genre: **Realistic Fiction**. We will be reading books that are fiction but provide many realistic story elements. We will be moving into information text following this unit.

In **Social Studies and Writing**, we will be uncovering the customs and traditions of Native American Tribes. We will be using our research and note taking skills to produce a research project examining the tribe of our choice. At the end, we will celebrate Native American Tribes with a Pow Wow...Galway style! We are excited!





Fabulous Fifth Grade

Ms. Dineley • Mr. Fernatt • Ms. Genua
Mrs. Klick • Mrs. Meyers



Reminders

The second quarter ends on Friday,
January 20th

5th Grade Math:

Unit 2 Unit Reassessment
Friday, January 6th

Math A:

Game Master Projects Due
Friday, January 6th

Unit 2 CD Unit Assessment
Friday, January 13th

THE 5TH GRADE TEAM
wishes you and your loved ones
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Spotlight on Academics

For the remainder of reading in quarter 2 the students will employ a variety of before, during, and after reading strategies to comprehend informational text. We will utilize note taking strategies and focus on summarizing and making inferences. In addition to reading to be informed we will review strategies for responding to reading in the BCR format as well as test taking strategies. Our fifth grade readers will also be exploring realistic fiction novels in guided reading groups.

Students in 5th grade math will Math 5 will begin Unit 3. This unit will focus on the following concepts:

- Relationships between fractions, decimals, and percents.
- Comparing and ordering fractions, mixed numbers, and decimals.
- Computing with whole numbers, fractions, mixed numbers, and decimals.

Estimating with fractions and decimals.

Math A students will be continuing Unit 2 CD with a focus the following concepts:

- Finding the percent of a number.
- Using estimation to solve problems involving fractions, mixed numbers, and percents.

Comparing and ordering fractions, decimals, and percents.

In social studies we will return to the Revolutionary War and the formation of our democracy as we explore the branches of government.