



# Blue Note: Galway Chronicle

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Home of the Galway Lions where Readers are Leaders!

October 28, 2011

## THE COUNSELOR'S CORNER—MS. CURTIS

This week in the fourth grade, we read the book, "The Brand New Kid," to help students explore themes related to what it feels like being a new student. Themes that surfaced were: 1) What does a welcoming school feel like, sound like and what might one observe regarding how students relate to one another 2) How students who are viewed as different can still be friends and 3) How to resist peer pressure to exclude someone because of perceived differences and instead be courageous enough to reach out to others. These combined themes help students to understand the behaviors that can contribute to a positive, safe and comfortable learning environment.

## HIGHLY GIFTED CENTER APPLICATIONS & MIDDLE SCHOOL MAGNET

Applications for the Elementary Centers for the Highly Gifted (HGC) (MCPS). **This is a reminder that if you are interested in having your child considered for the HGC, you must complete the application and return it by November 7, 2011, to:** HGC Application Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services, 11721 Kemp Mill Road, Silver Spring, MD 20902. The Middle School Magnet Consortium (MSMC) deadline to turn in *Choice* forms is **Monday, November 7, 2011**. Selection for the MSMC schools is done by lottery.

## GIRL SCOUT MEETING

**Wednesday November 11th Girl Scout Daisy Troop #1528 will meet at Galway E. S. in Room #137 from 7-8pm**  
**Financial Aid Forms will be made available to those who qualify.**

## FLU MIST CLINIC

We are offering the flu mist to all Galway students on Nov 10th. If you wish your child to receive the vaccine, please call us to make an appointment at 301-595-2930. The day of the clinic, come with your child and bring the consent form with you. Please do not send the consent form to school.

## NOVEMBER PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Please make sure you have scheduled a **Parent-Teacher Conference** on either November 10 or 11. There will be a **Spanish** interpreter available (please confirm with your child's teacher). Conferences are scheduled on fifteen minute intervals. Call or write your child's teacher to request a specific time, if needed.

## REPORT CARD DISTRIBUTION

Report cards will be handed out during the November 10 and 11 parent conferences.

If you have not scheduled a conference, please contact your child's teacher. Parents who have not scheduled a conference will receive their child's report card on November 10. The parent conference is the perfect time to ask questions about your child's progress. Parents are encouraged to make every effort to participate in a parent-teacher conference.



## Calendar Items

- Mon. Oct. 31** - **NO SCHOOL:** Professional Day for Teachers
- Tues. Nov. 1** - Grade 2 Field Trip: Green Meadows Farm
- Thurs. Nov 3.** - Bus Evacuation Drill
- Fri. Nov. 4** - Grade 3 Field Trip: B-CC H.S.
- Thurs. Nov. 10** - Early Release Day
- Fri. Nov. 11** - Early Release Day
- Mon. Nov. 14** - First Grade Field Trip  
Family Math Night 6:30 p.m.
- Wed. Nov. 16** - Kindergarten Thanksgiving Night  
6:00 p.m.
- Thurs. Nov. 17** - Family Math Night 6:30 p.m.
- Wed. Nov. 16** - Kindergarten Thanksgiving Night  
6:00 p.m.

## Principal's Comments!



Dear Galway Families,

Wow!!! Our Book Fair was a HUGE success!!!

I want to extend a thank you to Mrs. Elizabeth Ford and Mrs. Heather Jenkins, Book Fair Co-Chairs, for coordinating the Book Fair and the Book Fair volunteer schedule. Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Jenkins worked tirelessly to make the Book Fair a true success.

I also want to thank my parents who volunteered.

Ms. Stanislaus  
Principal

# Kindergarten News

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



## Reminders

Parent Conferences are scheduled!  
 If you are not sure when yours is, please contact your child's teacher.  
 Family Math Night for K-2 is Monday, November 14, at 6:30pm.  
 Hope to see you there!

## Spotlight on Academics

Kindergarten is moving right along! In reading this month, we will be learning how to listen to a story and retell the important parts in the beginning, middle and end of the story. We will also identify and discuss characters, setting, problem and solution. In math, we are counting and using manipulatives like Digiblocks to practice base ten. In writing, we're planning our stories and writing about our past experiences. We're also adding pictures for detail and editing for capitals and punctuation.

## Celebrations

The Kindergarten Thanksgiving Feast is coming! Ms. Kim, Ms. Harrison, Ms. Yoo, and Ms. Castaneda will have their celebration on Wednesday, November 16. Ms. DeVan, Ms. Wilson, Ms. String, and Ms. Wesolowski will have their celebration on Monday, November 21.

## Home Extensions

November 1 is Family Literacy Day! To celebrate, you can read a favorite book from your childhood with your child and talk about it afterwards. If you have a computer, ReadWriteThink.org has some great resources for families to use together, such as the ABC match game: <http://www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/games-tools/match-a-30091.html>. For math, you can have your child count doors and windows in the house and compare the numbers or even create a graph to show their data. They can also draw shapes and color ordinal numbers differently—for example, the second circle is green, the fourth square is orange, etc.

# First Grade News

Mr. Aaronson • Mrs. Kinsey • Ms. Douglas-Flynn • Mrs. Duvall  
 Mrs. O'Connor • Ms. Stuart • Ms. Sullivan • Ms. Walsh • Mrs. Wooler



## Reminders

Field Trip to National Zoo: November 14. Dress for the weather!  
 Guided Reading Books should always be returned the following school day.  
 When sending money to school, please label an envelope with your child's name and the purpose for the money (i.e. lunch, field trip, candy-gram, etc.)

## Spotlight on Academics- November

**Thinking Skill:** We are discussing the thinking skill of fluency, which means generating multiple responses to a problem or idea. Sometimes, there isn't just one right answer. How many "right answers" can you come up with when you encounter a problem?  
**Reading:** Our emphasis is identifying key details as we read. We will focus on answering and asking questions in small group reading.  
**Math:** As we continue with addition and subtraction, we will work on accuracy and speed. What strategies help us solve addition problems quickly?  
**Writing:** In Writing, we will continue to work on organization in our paragraphs. We will start with a hook, add relevant organized facts, and add a sense of closure to our work.  
**Science:** We will study the words that describe how objects like balls, wheels and cans move.  
**Social Studies:** First Graders will compare families and investigate similarities and differences between cultures.

## Celebrations

Thank you for sending in items for our Halloween party! It is very much appreciated. We also want to sincerely thank the parents who are volunteering weekly in Grade 1 classrooms. We value all your support.

## Celebrations

We also want to celebrate our Grade 1 readers. One-third of Galway's First Grade students are already reading at or above a Second Grade difficulty. Way to Go! We celebrate their hard work and effort and encourage them to keep excelling!

# Second Grade News

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

### Reminders

Our field trip to Green Meadows Farm has been postponed until Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. Parent/teacher conferences are quickly approaching. We look forward to our scheduled meetings in the beginning of November to discuss your child's progress. Our field trip to the Strathmore Music Hall is Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. The trip is free for students, but please turn in permission slips if you have not already done so.

### Spotlight on Academics

We have accomplished a lot in quarter one! We learned to write narratives and opinion paragraphs. We have also created graphs, worked on place value, and used mental math to add and subtract.

We have a lot to look forward to in November. We will be working on the critical thinking skill of analyzing throughout the quarter. We will analyze different folktales and fairytales in order to create our own! In Social Studies we will carefully analyze different maps to identify continents, oceans, and even the location of our school. In math we will analyze numbers and strategies to help us add and subtract plus find missing information in word problems.

### Celebrations

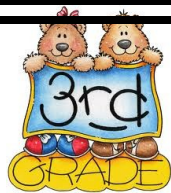
Our first quarter Parent Night was very successful! We were engaged in learning strategies to assist children in reading at home. We also explored different online reading resources that are offered through the Galway website. Thank you to all parents who attended. We look forward to our second quarter Parent Night, which will focus on strategies to prepare students for the TerraNova 2 assessment.

### Home Extensions

Are you looking for a way to motivate your students to read? Bookflix is a wonderful website that offers a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction paired books. Topics range from people and places to music and rhyme! It is a great resource for students reading at all book levels!

You can easily access Bookflix from the online resources link on Galway's webpage!

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/galwayes/>



# Third Grade News

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

### Reminders

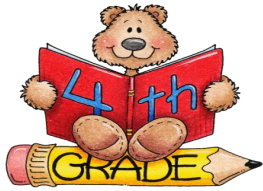
Please fill out all forms as soon as possible! Homework will be given each night. Learning Skills will come home every Monday. Please sign and return as soon as possible. If you send in any money for your child, please send it in an envelope with your child's name, teacher, and grade.

### Spotlight on Academics

We are all really excited and diving into learning. In math, students will begin Unit 2 by measuring to the nearest inch, half inch, and centimeter. Students will be able to convert between inches, feet, and yards as they explore measurement problems. Students will then apply these strategies as they find the perimeter and area of various regions. In reading, students are reading informational texts. We will be able to identify text features, how they improve a text, and how they help a reader to better understand a text. Also, students are applying their knowledge of cause and effect, sequencing, and compare and contrast to an informational text. In Social Studies, we are discussing the different goods and services provided in our community as well as how they impact our community. In science, we are finishing our study of bees and plant life. We will begin our study of the science behind fingerprinting and chromatography..

### Celebrations

The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will be going to see "James and the Giant Peach" at BCC on Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. Please make sure you have sent in your money and permission slip.



# Fourth Grade News

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

## Reminders

Our Ecosystem's field trip to the Smith Center will be occurring next week (November 2, 3, and 4, 2011). Please be sure that your student wears **long pants, closed two shoes and long sleeves for the field trip.**

Parent Chaperones are needed for the Smith Center Field Trip. However, bus transportation will not be provided. Please plan to meet us at the Smith Center, follow the buses or car pool with other chaperones. We appreciate your flexibility.

Please continue to sign and return learning skills as soon as possible.

## Celebrations

We are very excited to be moving into the new Quarter!  
Thank you for our continued support!

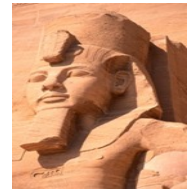
Also, another HUGE thank you to parents for sending in money with students for Time for Kids Magazines! Thank you for your donations! *We are still accepting donations, so continue to send them in!*

## Spotlight on Academics

In **Math**, we are moving into Quarter 2. This quarter, we will be exploring number patterns and the relationships between numbers and variables in equations. We will also use our knowledge of basic facts to increase our computation and estimation skills to solve number sentences using larger numbers.

$$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$$

In **reading**, we are reading for literary experience. We have completed our genre study of fables and fantasy. This quarter, we will explore Historical Fiction.



In **Social Studies**, we will be exploring our wonderful state, Maryland. We will use our knowledge of maps to locate important cities in Maryland. We will also explore cities and communities of the past as we investigate the lives and contributions of Native Americans to our state.

