

Glenallan Elementary School

"Where Gators Go Above and Beyond"



Gator Gazette

February 3, 2012

A Message from Mr. Moran

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Dear Glenallan Families,

I hope that you have had an excellent start to the month of February. The Gators have entered the month of February with a great deal of positive momentum. We just completed our MAP-r testing in (Grades 3 – 5) and as a school our average increase on this reading assessment was 11 points. Eleven points is the equivalent of a year's worth of growth! This performance was the result of the students knowing their score, setting goals to accomplish it, and the support of you at home and the teacher in the classroom. This same approach to the Maryland School Assessment will result in the Gators demonstrating their academic excellence but also the excellence of our community. To help your child prepare for this assessment, please have them utilize the test factory program at home. The directions are below for your convenience. Please join us on February 9th for our monthly PTA meeting where we will be discussing MSA preparation. This meeting will be held at the Fairland Center in the media center at 7:00 p.m.

First Graders Experience Glenallan's Newest Technology The Promethean Board



In addition to our academics, we continue to focus on building character, motivation, and a school that encourages students to take intellectual risks. I have the honor of seeing this growth occur daily. We held our hall meetings yesterday and discussed personal responsibility, taking care of our environment, and the importance of engaging in conversations with respect and confidence. It is so refreshing to hear the students say good morning to their teachers, ask how they are doing, and engage in detailed conversations that set the tone for a positive day. It is clear that you are teaching these life lessons at home that contribute to academic success. Have a great weekend!

Respectfully,
Mr. Moran

Practice Test Factory at Home! Prepare for MSA!

Directions:

1. Connect to the Internet, type in: http://www.testfactory.net/v8.2/Test_Factory/tftest.py or go to Glenallan's homepage <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/glenallanes/>. Click on Resources (left side), then click on Test Factory (under Educational Resources)
2. Enter in your Username and Password.
Username _____ Password _____ student _____
3. Click on Maryland School Assessment (select your grade – 3rd, 4th or 5th).
4. Select Objective Quizzes or Practice Tests. Quizzes are by category and have 10 questions. Practice tests are longer.
5. You can click on Completed Tests (top left) to see your test results. Click on Review Test to see which items missed.

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

Counselor's Corner
Ms. Lyons



In Guidance this month the Kindergarteners have begun the Keslo Lessons. In the lesson we discussed the difference between a big and a small problem. During the lesson we talk about how Kelso the frog will be helping them to be problems solvers for the small problems they may encounter. Each classroom teacher has been given a Keslo poster to display for the students to refer to. The Keslo poster has nine different Keslo problem solving strategies and I reviewed each of the strategies with the students before the actual lessons begin. The Keslo lessons promote positive social interaction and teach problem solving skills.

Parent Tip: Re-enforce with your child that big problems are situations that may be dangerous or scary and small problems they may try to solve on their own.

For example, someone sitting in their seat at school, having a disagreement with a sibling about personal property and even deciding who will push the shopping cart at the grocery store. These are small problems that most kids can solve on their own. The Keslo lessons identify nine choices kids can use to solve a small problem.

1. **Go to another Game**
2. **Talk it out.**
3. **Share and take turns.**
4. **Ignore it.**
5. **Walk away.**
6. **Tell them to stop.**
7. **Apologize**
8. **Make a deal.**
9. **Wait and Cool Off.**

In grades 1,2,3 we have concluded the Keslo lessons. The last Keslo lesson was a Keslo video. In the video students were able to see how other students use the Keslo choices to solve small problems peacefully. During the video we discussed how the children in the video have used the Keslo choices and what they would do if they had the same problem.

***Important Dates for
the Gators in
February 2012***



- February 4 Super Bowl***
- February 8 Bread Making Assembly 1st Grade
10:00 a.m.***
- February 9 Staff Meeting 8:00 a.m.***
- February 9 PTA Meeting@Fairland Media Center***
- February 14 4th Grade – Imagination Stage***
- February 14 Valentine's Day Parties 2:15***
- February 16 Jump Rope for Heart***
- February 20 President's Day – No School***
- February 21 McTeacher's Night (Glenmont)***
- February 28 Storytelling Assembly***

Character Counts:

The focus character trait for the month of February is citizenship. Staff will be looking for students demonstrating responsibility at school, in the community, and focusing on it through instruction.

In the 4th and 5th grades we discussed Goal setting. The beginning of the lesson we discussed making a new year's resolution and what that means. A goal is something you want to achieve and can help make the connection between personal choices and an end result. Students identified a specific goal they want to accomplish this year. We watched a video which outlined specific steps to setting goals. For example,

- Identify and Write down the goal
- Consider possible obstacles that may prevent and ways of dealing with them if and when they come up.

Mark your Calendars

- March 12 – March 21 – MSA Testing
- March 23 – Spring Community Dance at Kennedy High School

