

# Glenallan Elementary School

*"Where Gators Go Above and Beyond"*



## A Message from Mr. Moran

## Gator Gazette

January 27, 2012

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<http://www.facebook.com/glenallan.gators>

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Dear Glenallan Families,

We are fired up at Glenallan! The students just completed MAP-r testing and they did an outstanding job. Please ask them about their scores and the improvement that they made since the fall testing. The Gators are motivated, enthusiastic, and focused. As you may know, the Chinese New Year was this week and it is the year of the dragon. Students are receiving a scale to put on a dragon in the hallway when they complete their reading incentive at home. Please encourage them to work on this at home.

Many teachers were encouraging students to think outside of the box this week. Students are solving math problems in different ways, explaining the strategy they used to their classmates, and becoming teachers themselves. It is important that they are able to articulate their critical thinking. At home, please ask them questions like, how do you know this answer is correct? Can you show me another way to solve this problem? Then relate the problem to something they have experienced in the real world. Critical thinking skills are a key ingredient to making our Gators 21<sup>st</sup> century learners.

Thank you to all parents who came out and attended the winter concert. The students did an outstanding job and Mr. Tilkens is exposing them to different types of music and allowing them to take part in selecting musical pieces they wish to study and perform. One of the final songs they sang was, "Walking on Sunshine." I invite you to visit us at Fairland and see this type of attitude in our students and teachers. A big thank you to Mrs. Vanegas and all classroom teachers for decorating the building with examples of high quality student work through writing and artistic expression.

We took the practice MSA test last Friday, January 20, 2012. This was an opportunity for students to be exposed to sample problems that are similar to ones they will be tested on, experience a similar testing environment, and use their test taking strategies. If you are interested in practicing some sample math problems at home, please visit the following websites:

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: [http://www.mdk12.org/assessments/k\\_8/items/sample\\_grade3\\_math.html](http://www.mdk12.org/assessments/k_8/items/sample_grade3_math.html)

4<sup>th</sup> Grade: [http://www.mdk12.org/assessments/k\\_8/items/sample\\_grade4\\_math.html](http://www.mdk12.org/assessments/k_8/items/sample_grade4_math.html)

5<sup>th</sup> Grade: [http://www.mdk12.org/assessments/k\\_8/items/sample\\_grade5\\_math.html](http://www.mdk12.org/assessments/k_8/items/sample_grade5_math.html)

Have a great weekend! Thank you for continuing to work together as one community for the best education for every Gator.

Respectfully,

Mr. Moran

### **Promethean Board Installed at Glenallan!!!!**

A Promethean board is a wonderful asset in a classroom where the teacher's goal is to produce students who are meaningfully engaged in their learning throughout the day. With its various accessories, the possibilities for collaboration, communication, and interaction among students is endless. The Activclassroom makes learning come alive, encourages students to embrace technology, provides immediate feedback on student comprehension (through the use of Activotes and Activexpressions), and gives a new dimension of interactivity to lessons. Every student will be exposed to this great technology! Please visit <http://www.prometheanworld.com/en-us/education> for more information.

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

### **Bus Concerns**

If you have any bus concerns, please contact transportation at (301) 929-6906 and Mr. Moran to discuss them. Currently, we are working to resolve some issues with bus route #3404. It has been consistently arriving late and we are committed to working with the transportation department to correct this. We thank you for your patience.



### **Technology Tips**

Please remember to help students turn information into knowledge, and knowledge into wisdom. Our student's mobile devices, games and other technologies offer a chance to learn something new. The school and county web pages have a wealth of information to promote self-guided learning at home.

### **Helpful Web Links!**

- <http://www.thinkfun.com/playonline>
- Show your inner artist with PicassoHead!  
<http://www.picassohead.com/>
- Explore Outer Space with the NASA Kid's Site.  
<http://www.nasa.gov/audience/forkids/kidsclub/flash/index.html>

### **What is MAP-r Testing**

#### **What is MAP?**

MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) are achievement tests in mathematics, reading, language usage, and science that are taken on a computer.

#### **How does MAP work?**

The MAP system displays one test question at a time on the screen. You will select an answer using the mouse or the keyboard. The difficulty of the test will adjust to how you perform on the questions that you answer. As you answer correctly, the questions will become harder. As you answer incorrectly, the questions will become easier. It will build a test just for you.

#### **What Are the Purposes of MAP-R?**

- To monitor student achievement in reading over time
- To use as one data source in identifying instructional needs
- To help make grouping decisions within classes
- To provide another means to examine the academic diversity in the class.

## ***Important Dates for the Gators in January/February 2012***



*January 27 Pancakes with the Principals: Fairness*

*Comfy Cozy Day! (Wear your PJs)*

*January 30 Grade Level Hall Meetings*

*February 1 Reports Cards Sent Home*

*February 5 Super Bowl*

*February 6 – 10 National Counseling Week*

*February 6 – 10 National Reading Week*

### **Character Counts:**

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

- To reinforce the need for small group differentiated instruction.
- To validate strengths and concerns identified in other assessment data.
- To monitor progress toward state reading proficiency standards
- To inform course placement decisions
- To evaluate program effectiveness

***“It's the repetition of affirmations that leads to belief. And once that belief becomes a deep conviction, things begin to happen.” -Muhammad Ali***

