

EAST - WEST

October 30, 2015

Staff:

To begin, thank you for all you do in supporting our students and advocating for our Garden City Schools' community. Your hard work and dedication ensured that the start of our school year was smooth. Additionally, I wanted to share that there has been an enormous amount of positive feedback from parents and community members regarding the great work you do. Please know, your hard work is appreciated and recognized. As we settle in to the school year, and now look forward to the upcoming Thanksgiving break, we felt that the timing was appropriate to re-launch our district newsletter.

The continual focus of the monthly newsletter will be to promote and share district success stories. There are countless positive events and classroom victories that take place on a regular basis and we will use this publication as a forum to showcase them. Consider this, as the school year continues to unfold, please work with your building administrator to share and promote your program/building highlights. We will also continue to include a section on birthdays and birth announcements.

Finally, you will have undoubtedly noticed that the publication name has changed to East-West. The rationale is two-fold. For one, the title ties in with being globally competitive and having a focus on the global community. Additionally, there is the historic component. As you are aware, Garden City at one time had two high schools: Garden City East and Garden City West. Out of respect for our past and with a keen eye on the future, the title East-West feels fitting.

Have a wonderful school year and keep up the great work.

Regards,

Derek Fisher
Superintendent

Lathers

Fire Safety Week: We had fire safety assemblies and visits from our GC firefighters. The children enjoyed the presentations, and especially seeing the fire trucks.



Animal Magic Assembly: We had an Animal Magic assembly to introduce children to some exotic animals during the school day and had the same presentation in the evening during our Family Fall Festival on October 22. Children saw a snake, a tarantula, a sloth a hedgehog and other unique critters!



Family Fall Festival: Our annual event was October 22 including Trick or Treating in Kiwanis Town, Animal Magic, Build a Book room, Tattos, cider/donuts, bake sale and Scholastic Book Fair. We appreciate all of our volunteers from GCHS, including ROTC and Key Club members, as well as central office support from Rosemary Gross! Our Lathers teachers and staff put in many hours of preparation, time and effort to make this outreach event a success for our families.



Here is a great picture of our awesome GSRP team. We have 8 teachers and 8 associate teachers, serving 144 children this year. Great Start Readiness Program serves at-risk 4 years olds from Garden City and neighboring communities!



Our new Reading LOFT has arrived at Lathers! Our GSRP children are enjoying their new reading loft in our library. The students take turns reading on the top level, six at a time, and enjoy curling up with a good book! Our students know that reading is valued at Lathers and they are eager to find their favorite book and claim a spot in the loft!

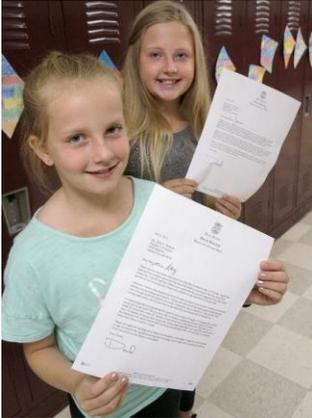


Douglas

Each month the students come to the gymnasium for a fun assembly with Mr. B. During this time, the teachers collaborate with each other in a separate location. As the students walk into the assembly, music is playing and the fun begins. Occasionally, I do a little singing and dancing. I may have a message before we start. Then we play games and students win prizes. They cheer each other on as their classmates play. This month, we played a bean bag toss, musical chairs, a hula hoop challenge. At least 20 prizes were given away! The message this month was on bullying.



Farmington



Abby Stickler and Jenna Czarnik were in 4th grade when they stopped in the office at Douglas Elementary last year and were asking why the schools made them do so much standardized testing, such as M-Step and NWEA. The secretaries told them that the school district tests them 3 times a year with NWEA to monitor their individual progress in Reading and Math as well as prepare them for the M-Step. They explained that the M-Step is mandated by the state and that Garden City Schools wanted them to be familiar with and prepared to take the M-Step, so they are able to gain practice with the NWEA assessment. The girls wanted to know who they could talk to about all of the testing at the state level. They were told they could write a letter to Senator Knezek, so they did. They asked for paper and wrote their letters right there in the office at Douglas. Both girls had never written a letter to a government official before and asked the secretaries to help address their envelopes. Jenna wrote that teachers and students need a break from all the testing and Abby suggested more recess time. Neither girl expected a response so they were extremely surprised that letters from Senator arrived at Farmington 5-6 Campus. In his letter to Jenna Senator Knezek stated, "Like you, I believe that students are forced to take too many tests in school." He pointed out in Abby's letter that in Finland students and teachers take "1 hour, 15 minutes of recess every single day." As 10 year old, 5th grade students in Garden City School they were excited to know that Senator Knezek actually read their letters and it are encouraged to write more letters to government officials. Abby and Jenna have always loved writing, even way back when they were first graders at Memorial Elementary. Outside of school Abby enjoys sleepover and hanging out with her friends and plans to be a nurse, while Jenna wants to pursue her interest in hair and make-up by becoming a cosmetologist.

On Friday, October 16th, Farmington had its first Lock-In of the 2015-16 school year. Two hundred, 5th and 6th graders, were "lock-in" at Farmington from 3:30-6:30pm. The fun and festivities began with pizza dinner for all in the gymnasium that included cookies made by staff members: Sherry Parks, Carly Boschma, Auleen Jarrett, Lori Koslakiewicz, and Marie Kennedy. Students could choose activities such as karaoke, candy bingo, wii dance revolution, basketball, football, nail painting, face painting, movie, board games and the ever popular photo booth, provided by Jason Bedoun. PTA supplied and ran a Halloween craft table - thank you Jaime Beccaccio and Jenna McMehan! 20 staff members voluntarily gave up their Friday to ensure students had this community building evening and gave parents an opportunity to have a "date night" while their children were safely having a great time at Farmington. The night finished with a visit from the Kona truck - it was a warm night and favored ice was enjoyed by all. To the right is a picture of Cheryl Aube (Main Office Secretary, G.C. West Class of 1976) and Melanie Heikkila (Student Teacher, G.C. Class of 2009).



Middle School

On Thursday, October 22nd forty Middle School students went to Frankenmuth, Michigan. After a brief stop at Bronner's students went to the Historical Museum, where they learned why the German settlers left their country and how early life was like for them here in Michigan. Students were able to explore interactive displays that spoke and let them use artifacts that would have been part of the daily lives of the Frankenmuth early settlers. Then students went to the Bavarian Inn where they learned how to roll pretzels. While the pretzels were baking students enjoyed lunch at the Inn.



Bulldog Bash

The place to be last Thursday night was the Garden City Middle School Halloween Dance! With nearly 400 students in attendance, it was an event for our students not only to enjoy themselves at, but to be proud of. A shared project by the Student Council and National Junior Honor Society, the Halloween Dance was planned and decorated by students. One goal this year at the Middle School is to empower our students to take on leadership and ownership of school events and projects. Enabling our students to take charge and have more control of this event brought out more students and fun than one could ever have imagined! The great success of the Halloween Dance undoubtedly makes a case for, as well as sets a precedent for, student leadership.



Burger

Burger Baylor Community Garden Project - Field of Dreams



I'd first like to say that no words of gratitude can possibly express how grateful we are to all of you who have contributed to the garden project here at Burger Baylor. Our expectations have been blown away! Thank you for the donations and generosity of not only money, but the time everyone spent working to ensure this community garden was a success. Thank you, to our administrators here at Burger Baylor, Mary O'Neill and Lynn Sossi for allowing us this opportunity, the moral support, and the chance for our students to participate in such a wonderful project. Thank you Neil Green from Wayne Resa for your support and helping us to get the ball rolling. Thank you Pat Crosby at the Burger Transition Center. His Wood Shop class made us raised beds. Thank you Basa and Lyman for your generous donations of money to purchase plants, seeds, tools, soil and rent the necessary equipment to pull up the sod. Thank you Murlisa Lockett from Wayne Metro Community Action Agency for donating vegetable plants, seeds and sending Master Gardner Joyce Phillips to guide us. Thank you Kristie King and Pamela Ross from the Healthy Kids and Kidneys Program for curriculum ties to the garden. Thank you Jean Overman from the Feeding Inkster Workgroup for your support, time and guidance. Thank you Bonnie Dexter for your connections and the yards of soil you had delivered for our garden. Thank you Shelly Simms for your connections and the yards of wood chips needed for drainage around our raised beds. Thank you Hank Tyszka for having such wonderful and generous friends. Without the Rototiller the garden would not have been such a huge success. Thank you Tony Mattioli and Matt Thompson for all your hard work after school hours to get the ground ready. I would like to thank Rita McNally, Mike Garbutt and Pat McDonald for being team players and pulling together such a huge project. You are amazing teachers and I am honored to be part of such a wonderful team! And a special thank you to all of our students. You have made a difference in people's lives.

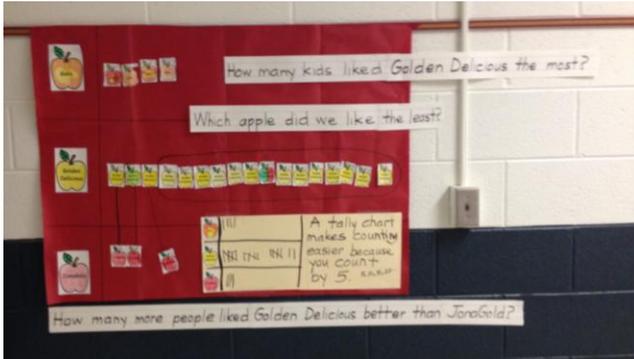


Because of everyone's generosity our students were contributors in a community, learned a valuable skill and were able to donate over 925 pounds of very needed fresh vegetables to our families at Burger Baylor and Mother's Pantry in Inkster. The hours accumulated to over 400 for the season and we had 35 different staff members and students participate in this project. We feel truly blessed and look forward to the next growing season.

The Field of Dreams Crew - Lisa Stephenson, Mike Garbutt, Rita McNally, and Pat McDonald
Burger Baylor School for Students with Autism

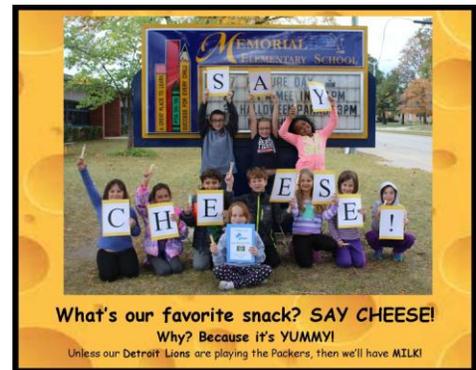


Memorial



Thursday, October 22, was Michigan's Apple Crunch Day. Three varieties of apples were donated from the Michigan Apple Growers so that every student could compare and choose his or her favorite. The students used the results in math lessons and each class created graphs and charts. The overall school results were Golden Delicious 195, JonaGold 153, and Gala 69.

Memorial is a Building Healthy Communities School and is participating in the Fuel Up to Play 60 program sponsored by the NFL and the National Dairy Council. Eight second grade students represent the school as the Student Leadership Team along with a program advisor. These students find ways to get their classmates excited about eating healthy and staying active 60 minutes a day. They are able to give a Healthy Tip of the Day on the morning announcements and lead classes in physical activity breaks that take place throughout the school day.



Memorial recently entered a contest through Fuel Up to Play 60 that required some of our students to pose for a picture with their favorite dairy food and include a caption. The photo was captioned "What's our favorite snack? SAY CHEESE! Why? Because it's YUMMY! Unless our Detroit Lions are playing the Packers, then we'll have MILK!" The Memorial photo was chosen as the winner and we received 4 tickets to the October 25 Lions v. Vikings game. The students in the picture represent some of the second grade Student Leadership Team for the Building Healthy Communities program and some of the participants of the after school Healthy Kids Club.



The Paw Pals at Trunk or Treat!

Shinning Stars - September

Lathers	Jacob Goachee
Memorial	Isabella Rousseau
Douglas	Ayden Cain
Farmington	Ella Brown
Middle School	Nathan Sikora
High School	Hannah Dehetre
Cambridge	Kailee McCarrick
Burger	Cody Cheff

Above and Beyond - September

Lathers	Danica Grceski
Memorial	Michele Woodard
Douglas	Steve Rodgers
Farmington	Cathie Zabinski
Middle School	Lynn Waldecker
High School	Cindy Chambers
Cambridge	Amy Oaks
Burger	Madison Cabanaw



- November 1st** Christina Burkhardt-Messner, Patricia Martin
- November 2nd** Keith Penski
- November 5th** Susan Ford
- November 6th** Denise Gooding, Barbara O'Neill, Julia Roscoe, Michael Salter
- November 7th** Veronica Darin
- November 8th** Gabriella Capatina, Rachel Fletemier, Susan Varner, Suzanne Zarb
- November 10th** Hiam Batayneh, Janice Erlingis
- November 12th** Deana Makled
- November 15th** David Pavelka, Andy Witkowski
- November 16th** Michael Brower, Daniel Currie, Marlene Luttrell, David Riley
- November 20th** Michael LeBlanc
- November 22nd** Steven Chandler, Angelica Reest, Heidi Witt
- November 23rd** Denise Derrick
- November 24th** Bette Kramer
- November 25th** Denise Rudzki, Alicia Walters
- November 26th** Kristin Beckham
- November 29th** Deborah White

Birth Announcements



Congratulations to Kelly Carcone and family on the birth of Brooklyn. Brooklyn Elyse Carcone arrived, Friday, July 3rd, at 5:14 am and weighed in at 7lb 8oz and was 20½ inches long. Kelly Carcone is a 5th grade teacher at Farmington.



Congratulations to Heather Swan and family on the birth of Levi. Levi was born on October 19, 2015 weighing 8lbs 9oz and 21½ inches long. Heather Swan is a Title 1 Student Mentor/Social Worker at Farmington.



Fundraisers

Seacamp

Grand Traverse Pie Company Pies for Sale!

Pie Certificates valid for any full-size 9" fruit or cream pie that are fresh baked daily!

You buy a certificate for \$18, take the Certificate to the Grand Traverse Pie Company @ 41640 Ann Arbor Rd, Plymouth 48170 and pick out your pie!!

Money and orders are due by **NOVEMBER 12** and the Pie Certificates will be in on **November 19** right in time for Thanksgiving and Christmas! Make checks out to Garden City High School.

Great gift idea!

GRAND TRAVERSE PIE COMPANY USES MICHIGAN INGREDIENTS AND HAS GLUTEN FREE OPTIONS!!!

Please email Danielle Mitoraj at mitorad@gardencityschools.com with your building and the number of certificates you would like.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF SEACAMP!