

## Gloucester Township Elementary School



# Principal's Notebook

Mr. Gentile, Principal

Fall Edition 2009-2010

### Gloucester Township Elementary School Welcomes New Staff!



Our GTES school community wishes to welcome many new staff members who have joined our ranks for the 2009-2010 school year. We have already made them feel like a part of our school!

- \*Mrs. Farah – Library
- \*Miss Snapp – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade
- \*Mrs. Lesch – Resource Room
- \*Mrs. Fritzscha – Kitchen
- \*Mrs. Johnson – Kitchen
- \*Mrs. Graef – 1-1 Assistant

### Everyday Math Night A Big Success!!

Led by District Math Supervisor, Mrs. Heather Moran, a huge crowd attended Everyday Math Night on the evening of October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Parents reviewed all the new elements of the new Everyday Math program and how students are taught the 4 operations and new concepts.

Supervisor Moran was supported by district Math Coach Maureen Airo and our GTES Math Coordinator Mr. Hansen.

Parents learned many new ways to help their children at home with math!

### St. Edmund's Bank to Sponsor New Monthly Award for Most Improved Student!

Our hard working EPC, led by President Diane Senski, has secured new sponsorship for our popular *Yellow Jacket Incentive Program*.

Already one of the district's top incentive & recognition programs for elementary school students, our incentive program will now add a monthly award for the *school's most improved student*. The award, which will be presented on Spirit Day on the last day of the month, will attempt to find the individual student who has shown the most progress & effort for that month!

St. Edmund's Federal Reserve Bank representative, Ms. Kelly Czechowicz, will be on hand every month to present a \$25 US Saving Bond to the winning student!

This month's winner will be presented at the Halloween Activity in the Gym, on Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>!

Students will be selected by the teaching staff.

Other segments of the Yellow Jacket Incentive Program includes the EPC Student of the Month Breakfast at Meadows Diner or Denny's, Yellow Jacket Incentive Prize Drawings every month, Presidential Academic Fitness Awards, Principal's Medal Award for High Scores on the NJASK, and The Citizenship Award for Outstanding Behavior & Attitude.

Good luck kids...let's bring home some awards!!

### **NJASK: Magic Number is 200!**

Fourth and Fifth Grade students recently received their NJASK scores from last spring's testing.

The State provided parents and families with information and a breakdown on how the student did in certain sub tests. The Home Report contained an explanation and chart to illustrate the student's achievement.

Proficiency on the NJASK is achieved by scoring at least 200 points in either Language Arts/Literacy (LAL) and/or Math. Those students under 200 points on either test section will qualify for extra academic support with Corrective Reading or Basic Skills Math.

A student can also achieve Advanced Proficient status by scoring 250 or more points in either Literacy or Math. A perfect score is 300.

Achieving 200 points and a proficient rating has become more difficult than in past years. Last year, the State Teachers Advisory Committee reset and raised the baseline percentage of points needed to achieve the equated score of 200. Students must now accumulate more correct answers and higher rubric scores on writing samples to gain a proficient rating.

At GTES, and in Gloucester Township Public Schools, we view standardized state testing as **only one measure** of a student's achievement. There are many other factors that determine a student's success in school. GTES students are asked simply to try their best and be prepared & present on the days of the test. They are told the test will show what they have learned this past year.

While the NJASK is only one measure of progress, it can sometimes show areas that need improving. If your 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grader scored under 200 points or only a few points over 200 on either part of last year's NJASK test, you may want to ask them if there were any specific skills or writing samples that were particularly difficult. Share any concerns they expressed or any low areas shown on the Home Report with this year's teacher at conference time. This will allow the **student, parent, & teacher to work together** on improving those weaker skill areas exposed by the test.

This year's NJASK testing will take place in May for students in **Grades 3, 4, & 5**. Working to develop skills throughout the **entire** school year is the **best** way to have a positive and comfortable state testing experience in May!

### **Mrs. Farah Runs Her 1<sup>st</sup> Book Fair at Gloucester Twp. ES!**

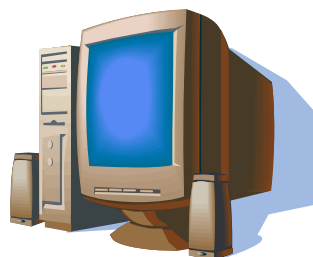


This year's first book fair is now running in the Library! Our new full time Librarian, Mrs. Farah, has brought in some great new books. In addition, the Book Fair offers supplies, posters, and a special parents' section. Proceeds are split between the Library and the EPC. See you at this year's Book Fair!

### **Gloucester Township Elementary School Website!**

Parents, students, and families are encouraged to check out our GTES website! The web address is:

[www.gloucestertownshipschools.org/schools/gt](http://www.gloucestertownshipschools.org/schools/gt).



### **Charitable Projects Help Families and Soldiers in the Middle East**

Many students and families are contributing non-perishable food items in classrooms. These items will be put together to provide a Happy Thanksgiving for families who need a little extra help around the holiday.

In addition, we will again run our very popular **Coffee For The Troops** to help New Jersey soldiers who are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We thank everyone for their efforts



### **Always Check On Behavior**

Parents are asked to check the behavior of their child during school hours. When viewing agenda books or checking homework, always ask how things are going with their behavior in class and around the school.

A number of our students have “slipped” the first month of school this year in their behavior. Too much talking during class and not paying attention during lessons shows that some students have forgotten our school’s expectations. If your child has forgotten school rules, expect some communication from the teacher---we ask you to please be supportive and focus on *your child* and how they can improve.

If your son or daughter received an Interim Report last week with Behavior as a concern, it is important to address the issue at home so improvement is seen in school.

Self-control, focus, and a positive attitude are keys to student learning. Let’s make sure all our “Yellow Jackets” are flying in the right direction!

### **After School Tutoring Programs Providing Academic Support for Students in all grades!**

Once again our school has received funding to offer after school tutoring programs for those students who need extra help.

The first of these programs, **Super SNAP**, targets literacy skills and provides homework support for students in Grade 3, 4, 5.

Our popular **Skill Builder & Confidence Booster Program** is funded by a grant from the Gloucester Township Municipal Alliance and helps Grade K, 1, & 2 students with value learning, academic skills, and works on building self esteem.

Both programs are held on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

### **Safety Patrol Peer Tutors Help Younger Students Learn!**

Our Safety Patrol, under the direction of Head Teacher, Mrs. Tabian, has continued a program called **Peer Tutors**. Safety Patrol 5<sup>th</sup> Graders volunteer to help younger students catch up on literacy and math skills

Current 5<sup>th</sup> Gr. tutors are

*Alexis Severance, Joyce Arroliga,  
Maria Startare, Sean Prendergast,  
Alyssa McMullen, & Ellie Hoffman.*



### **\*HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES OCTOBER 30<sup>TH</sup>, AT 1:45PM**

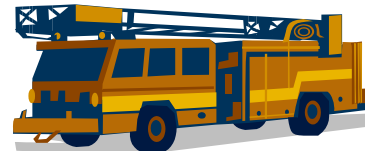
**\*EPC Incentive Drawings**

**\*Costume Indoor Parade**

**\*St. E's Most Improved Award**

### **Fire Prevention Poster Award Winners!**

On Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, Gloucester Township Elementary School will have Fire Prevention Day. A visit from the Blackwood Fire Company to tour trucks and equipment will highlight the day. Our First Grade students will have a special presentation and Kindergarten will do their Annual Fall Firewalk on Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> to the Blackwood Fire Hall!



### **2009-2010 Poster Winners**

Gr. 1: Adam Aquilino, Colin Bauer

Gr. 2: Jada Armbruster, Marcela Allen,  
Maddison Whiton

Gr. 3: Alyssa Granstrom, Logan Vander Woude

Gr. 4: Zach Nocella, Vivian Hong

Gr. 5: Grier Conville, Brynn Ceschan

### **NJFAMILYCARE Provides Affordable Health Care**

Affordable health care is available to all New Jersey families through NJFAMILYCARE. This program provides quality coverage through the State of New Jersey. The plan covers doctor’s visits, lab tests, dental for most children, and eyeglasses.

Please see information on the back page that provides eligibility requirements.