

THE GLEN ESTE GAZETTE

October 2007

Kevin S. Thacker, Principal ** Glen Este Middle School ** 4342 Glen Este-Withamsville Rd. ** Cincinnati, Ohio 45245 ** 947-7700
GEMS website: www.westcler.org/gm

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE...

Dear Parents,

This school year we are implementing a researched based bullying prevention program in an effort to increase safety at our school for the students and staff. The entire staff is becoming educated through this program on the various forms of bullying and how we can address this problem as a school. For the most part, everyone is aware of the typical ways that people bully others (pushing, punching, name calling, threats, etc.) and probably each of us has been on the victim end of bullying at one time or another. Research is showing a dramatic increase in bullying through the use of technology and I can attest that this is becoming a bigger problem each year at our school. This is commonly referred to as "Cyberbullying." Students cyberbully others through: e-mails, instant messaging, text or digital messages sent on cell phones, web pages, and chat rooms. One in five middle school students report being cyberbullied and girls are twice as likely to be cyberbullied as boys. What can you do to help prevent your child from being cyberbullied?

- Keep your home computer in easily viewable places.
- Check the browser history to see the sites your child has visited.
- Talk regularly about cyberbullying and encourage your child to talk to you if they are exposed.
- Install parental control filtering software and/or tracking programs.
- Do not erase text messages or e-mails that contain bullying because you may need to share these with authorities if the messages are threatening in nature.
- Strongly encourage your child to not respond to the cyberbullying. Responding back does not normally solve the problem but actually keeps the bullying going.
- Do your best to keep your children off of sites that contain profiles and chat rooms.

Our school district has software to block the kids from sites that could be potentially dangerous while they use the school's computers. However, nothing is 100%. If you know that your child has been victim of cyberbullying either through a text message or e-mail that has taken place during the school day, please inform us. If you are concerned about your child's safety at school over a cyberbullying incident that has occurred after school hours, please let us know prior to the next school day so that we can prevent a possible situation from occurring during the day.

Kevin S. Thacker

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Will be held on
Mon., Nov. 5th and Wed., Nov.
14th

4:30-8:00 p.m.
(scheduling forms enclosed)

IMPORTANT DATES

October

- 17 - Otis Spunkmeyer Fundraiser Kick off
- 19 - 7th/8th grade dance 7-9 p.m. MPR
- 26 - End of 1st Quarter
- 26 - Picture Retakes
- 30 - Washington D.C. Trip meeting
7:00 p.m. In the gym

November

- 1 - PTO Meeting 6:30 Library
- 2 - Fundraiser ends
- 5 - Conferences 4:30-8:00
- 6 - No School Teacher in service
- 14 - Conferences 4:30-8:00
- 21-23 - No School Thanksgiving break
- 28 - Fundraiser Order pick up

HOMEWORK REQUESTS

Homework requests may be made when students have missed two or more days. Parents can request homework on the 24-hour Attendance Line (947-7704). Please allow 24 hours notice for teachers to prepare assignments. Students will be allowed two days for each day missed to complete assignments.

School Fees Due Now!

Please don't forget to pay your school fees as soon as possible. School fees are \$35.00 per child. Checks should be made payable to Glen Este Middle School (or GEMS). **Note: school fees must be paid before students can attend skating parties, dances, etc.** If you need to make arrangements to pay the fees in installments, contact Mrs. Terris at 947-7708.

Important Reminder:
Mandatory Washington, D.C. Trip Meeting
Student and Parent Must Attend
Tuesday October 30, 7:00 p.m.
In the Gymnasium.

GOT COOKIES?

Otis Spunkmeyer Cookie Dough Fundraiser
Order your Cookie Dough now!
Fundraiser ends Nov. 2, 2007

SPORTS NEWS

Football

Congratulations 7th/8th grade football teams. 8th grade 4-1 record, 7th grade currently undefeated, having defeated Kings (scrimmage), Nagel Silver, Amelia, Winton Woods, Loveland, and

Glen Este Middle School Mission Statement:

The Glen Este Middle School staff is committed to empowering all students in a safe environment for changes and challenges of the 21st century, through a shared responsibility between home, school, and community.

Milford! Two games remaining, games begin at 4:30.

Cross Country

Congratulations to the GEMS boys and girls cross country team. The boys team placed 2nd at the FAVC!

Volleyball

The volleyball season is still underway. As of the printing of this newsletter, the 8th grade record is 11-4 and 7th grade is 10-5. Great job, girls!

Lady Trojans Fast-Pitch Club

The 2008 Lady Trojans Fast-Pitch Club is presently looking for 14 fast-pitch players in the 7th and 8th grades at GEMS. The Lady Trojans will begin its season the last week of March 2008 and will play 20 ball games and a season ending tournament the first week of May 2008. All games will begin at 4:30 pm. Home games will be played at Willowville Elementary, or at Tealtown Ball Park.

Fees are \$80 per girl. Tryouts begin in November 2007. A sign up sheet is located in the GEMS office. Call Rusty Woods 617-7006 or Andy Vita 753-3771 for more info.

SEPTEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Team 6-1	Sam Barrett
Team 6-2	Ashley Keith
Team 6-3	Samantha Harris
Team 7-1	Maggie Walriven
Team 7-2	Mason Lykins
Team 7-3	Amanda Adams
Team 8-1	Taylor Herrmann
Team 8-2	Lindsay Beasley
Team 8-3	Nicole Spence
Ms. Heimann	Lyric Hein

Background Checks at the District Office

MONDAY—WEDNESDAY—FRIDAY
9:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.

WEST CLERMONT MEDICATION POLICY

It is the West Clermont School District policy that no student is to carry medication with them, whether it is prescription or over-the-counter medication. Written authorization from the physician and parent on a West Clermont medication form is required. All medication must be brought to and picked up from school in the Original container by a parent/guardian. Exceptions are students with chronic health problems. These students will be allowed to carry and self medicate for asthma, diabetes, and anaphylaxis. A West Clermont Medication form signed by the physician and parent must be on file in the school health office. Call Saron Scott, Health Aide, at 947-7703 if you have questions.

DID YOU KNOW.....?

Many kids experience some stress and anxiety about school, especially at the beginning of the school year. Letting your child know that you understand his/her feelings and that you are there to support him/her can help ease some of that stress.

Here are some easy tips for parents to assist in easing academic-related anxiety:

- Stay involved in your child's school life, including assignments and school experiences. Ask your child what he/she is learning in class, what the class requirements are, and what makes him/her nervous about the class.
- Offer to spend extra time with your child in the evening answering questions he/she may have about an assignment.
- Encourage your child to talk to his/her teachers about any concerns or questions they may have about a class.
- Help your child think of strategies for dealing with the situation on their own and reward him/her for trying them out.
- Show confidence in your child's ability to cope with his/her feelings and with the classroom work. Kids often reflect their parent's feelings and anxieties, so, if you are worried about your child's school performance, they probably will be too.

For more information about academic anxiety, feel free to contact Heidi Haski, Intern School Psychologist at 947-7735.

PTO NEWS

Next PTO Meeting:

Thursday, November 1st, 2007 @ 6:30 p.m.
GEMS Library

2007-2008 PTO Board Officers

President - Joy Hickey
Vice-President - Lynette Beach
2nd Vice-President - Kim Zitt
Recording Secretary - Allison Jones
Corresponding Secretary - Carol Adkins
Treasurer - Melanie Sturgeon
Membership Drive

The PTO membership drive is still underway! Please join us by being active in our school through the PTO. Membership is only \$5.00 for a family. Pick up a membership form in the office or on the school website under the PTO link. PTO meetings are held the first Thursday of every month at 6:30 P.M. in the school library.

Fall Fundraiser

The Otis Spunkmeyer Cookie Dough Fundraiser will begin Wednesday, October 17 and end Friday, November 2. Please support GEMS in this highly successful fundraising program.

7th/8th grade dance

The 7th/8th grade dance will be held on **Friday October 19th** from **7:00-9:00 P.M.**

Email PTO!

Contact PTO with any questions or concerns by going to www.westcler.org/gm and clicking on the PTO link!

IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR PARENTS:

Students are not permitted to be in the school building after 2:15 unless they have adult supervision. Teachers will be asking students to report to the office if they are not supervised.

SUPPORT GROUP

The Guidance Department will be offering a support group for boys and girls having difficulty with a family divorce. The group will be co-facilitated by Child Focus Counselor Lisa Devine and GEMS Counselor Kim Orlemann. If you would like your child to participate or would like more information, please call Mrs. Orlemann at 947-7712 or have them pick up a packet in her office. The group will begin in November and is open to all grade levels.

GEMS STUDENT COUNCIL 2007-2008

6th Grade

Jesse Cupp, Jordan Large, Tim Malott, Karagan Miller (Alternate) Ashley Keith, Gregory Payne, Rachel Harrison, Alyson Pery (Alternate), Bridgette Bowling, Mackenzie Hall, Mallory Price, Madeline Gassman (Alternate), Andrew Noe (Alternate).

7th Grade

Dana Jones, Allie Kasperczyk, Maddie Landon, Jessica Klatzke (Alternate), Kaitlin Jones, Amanda Adams, Kourtney Dean, Brady Potrafke, Jacob Sadler (Alternate).

8th Grade

Chelsi Altman, Gwen Bell, Morgan Woodring, Wesley Kilgore (Alternate), Suzy Hines, Justin Sigel, Matt Walter, Justin Baughman (Alternate), Brennan Hall, Stacy Howell, Lauren Owen.

GEMSSC Officers 2007-2008

President Suzy Hines
Vice President Jordan Large
Secretary Mackenzie Hall
Treasurer Rachel Harrison
Activities Coordinator 6th grade:
Tim Malott
Activities Coordinator 7th grade:
Kourtney Dean
Activities Coordinator 8th grade:
Lauren Owen