

THE GLEN ESTE GAZETTE

December 2008

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Dear Parents,

Christmas season is a busy, yet wonderful, time of the year at Glen Este Middle School. It is such a pleasure to see the numerous ways that our student organizations and staff give back to the community to help those in need. What a great time to teach our students the importance of community service and that each person has a moral obligation to help make their community a stronger and more desirable place to live. I am excited to see that our students involved in FAC participated in "Operation Christmas Child" (a ministry of the Samaritan's Purse). Additionally, the GEMS Student Council is currently running their "Winter Wishes Campaign," raising money for both GEMS families in need and Children's Hospital.

I constantly think about test scores and assessments and how we can measure student growth. However, much of our responsibility between home and school isn't just about math, language arts, etc., but it is to help each child become a responsible, respectful, young adult. Educational scholars call this the "hidden curriculum." In other words, it is what we teach students in addition to all the academic classes they take. It can be measured right now by watching our students' interactions throughout the day and seeing the ways they've gotten involved during the holidays to help others. I'm grateful that the staff is modeling this important lesson for our students by getting involved themselves.

I hope that you and your family create memories this holiday season that will last a lifetime. I wish each of you a Happy New Year.

Get Connected!

The West Clermont Connection, a weekly email newsletter, is available to interested members of the community. Parents can subscribe by going to www.westcler.org and clicking on "Click here to subscribe" or call Sharon Oakes at 943-5053.

Important Dates

December

- 4 PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Library
- 5 Interims Sent Home w/ALL Students
- 10 Fundraiser Pick-Up, 3:00-8:00 p.m.
- 15 6th Grade Winter Concerts, 7:00 p.m., PAC
- 16 7th Grade Winter Concerts, 7:00 p.m., PAC
- 17 8th Grade Winter Concerts, 7:00 p.m., PAC
- 19 Jingle Bell Bash
- 22 Christmas Break Begins

January

- 5 Return to School
- 8 PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Library
- 16 End 2nd Quarter Grading Period
- 19 NO SCHOOL - MLK, Jr. Day
- 23 Report Cards Mailed Home
- 29 Parent Teacher Conferences, 4:30-8:00 p.m.

Students of the Month

Glen Este Middle School Students of the Month are chosen for displaying determination and self-motivation. The following students have been selected by their teachers as "Students of the Month." Congratulations on this fine honor!

October

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 6-1 Mary Turner | 7-1 Carley Wilson |
| 6-2 Emma Kasperczyk | 7-2 Ryan Brinkman |
| 6-3 Elliott Stockton | 7-3 R.J. Mancini |
| 8-1 Dasmynne Garrison | |
| 8-2 Gabby Ferro | |
| 8-3 Capri Kowsky | |

Winter Concert Dates

Be sure to mark the following dates on your calendar and plan to attend your child's winter concert. Bring family and friends! Concerts will be held in the Glen Este Performing Arts Center beginning at 7:00 p.m.

December 15 - 6th Grade

December 16 - 7th Grade

December 17 - 8th Grade

YEARBOOK SALE UPDATE

Get your picture in the yearbook!

The yearbook staff is in need of photos of GEMS students involved in the Presidential election (at a rally, standing in line at the polls, etc.) and pictures of GEMS students cleaning up after the wind storm in September. Please submit photos to Mrs. Walls, room 343, by December 19. Make sure to include the names of the students in the photos!

Purchase a Gift Certificate for Christmas!

Parents can purchase yearbooks in the form of a gift certificate for their child(ren) by sending a check for \$25 to Mrs. Walls along with your name and address. A gift certificate will be mailed to you! This could make a great Christmas gift and the certificate may be redeemed at the end of the school year for a yearbook! The deadline is December 19.

School Closing Information

Inclement weather is coming! To see if school is closed, Glen Este Middle School parents can call our School Closing Information line at 947-7798. This line will have updated school closing information as received from the West Clermont School District. Please do not call the school office or transportation to see if school is closed. We need to keep our lines open for emergency information. West Clermont parents can also go to our district's website at www.westcler.org to see if we are on any kind of delay because of inclement weather. The notices are put on the front page of the website under "Announcements" by 5:30 AM. Please listen to your radio or watch your television for WEST CLERMONT. It will NOT say Glen Este Middle School. It will say West Clermont. Continue to watch or listen for updates in case delays are changed to closed.

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.

SPORTS NEWS

Thanks to Coaches . . .

GEMS would like to thank the following fall athletic team coaches for their dedication and hard work during the fall athletic season:

- Football: 8th grade head coach **Chris Redmond** and assistants **Michael Ball** and **Mike Thompson**, and volunteer coaches Dustin Amann, Tim Lynan, Greg Jones, and Sean Lawson; 7th grade head coach **Don Jacobs** and assistants **Jeremy Sleet** and **Frankie Wilson**.
- Cross Country: coach **Pat Rexroat**.
- Volleyball: 8th grade coach **Julie Lach** and 7th grade coach **Jenna Barrand**.
- Cheerleading: coach **Faith Manker**.

*GEMS would like to thank all
who volunteered at the fall sporting events this year.
Without your support, we couldn't run our programs!*

Basketball

Congratulations to the 2007-2008 girls and boys basketball teams:
8th Grade Girls: **Kylie Allen, Ashleigh Beard, Jessie Brenes, Hannah Carson, Katelynn Everhart, Gabby Ferro, Megan Harris, Allie Kasperczyk, Danielle Lang, Alexis Stahl, Jill Sutter.** **8th Grade Boys:** **Pat Delaney, Alec Gordon, Jake Henize, Ryan Henning, Austin Istvan, Brandon Jones, Trevor Jones, Jerdon Louiso, Macon Overcast, Austin Rieck, Joey Speigel, Aaron Stephens, Jake Velten.** **7th Grade Girls:** **Stephanie Bogan, Hannah Bowens, Alexis Burdick, Jessie Goedde, Kayla Gregory, Mackenzie Hall, Ashley Keith, Marisa Lavatori, Maranda Melton, Katelyn Poehner, Morgan Terry, Madi Velten.** **7th Grade Boys:** **Grant Adams, Austin Blair, Kody Bobb, Tyler Burdick, Colin Couch, Tyler Flanigan, Logan Harris, Chris Keating, Kyle Keszei, R.J. Mancini, Ben Parrish, Grant Pieples.** The girls basketball season will open Monday, December 1 at Amelia Middle School. Boys begin Monday, December 8 at home against Walnut Hills. The boys will also have a Friday evening game against Amelia on December 19 at 5:00 p.m. at Glen Este High School. Basketball schedules can be found on our website by going to www.westcler.org/gm and clicking on "Athletics." For directions to schools, go to www.favcsports.com and click on directions.

Wrestling

The first wrestling meet of the season will be the New Richmond Invitational at New Richmond on Saturday, December 6 at 9:00 a.m. Come out and support our wrestlers! Check wrestling meet dates on the GEMS website under Athletics.

Sports Pictures

Winter sports pictures will be on **Wednesday, December 10**. Basketball pictures will be at 2:30 p.m. and wrestling pictures will be at 6:00 p.m. in the high school wrestling room. Coaches will be sending home picture packets with students before the picture date.

Drug Awareness Week

Glen Este Middle School participated in Drug Awareness Week October 27-31. Posters were made by Health classes to be displayed in the building. On Monday, Resource Officer Brown video taped drug awareness and consequences of drug use which was played to classes via closed-circuit television in the classrooms. Tuesday was Red Shirt Day. Students and staff wore red shirts to recognize drug awareness. On Friday, students and staff wore crazy socks and all were given "Sock It To Drugs" stickers. Pictures were taken of students wearing socks and stickers and sent to local news agencies and press. Fun was had by all!

ExxonMobil Educational Alliance Program

On November 24, Mr. Nick Frank, District Supervisor for United Dairy Farmers, presented a check for \$500 from ExxonMobil Corporation to Mr. Kevin Thacker, Principal of Glen Este Middle School. The money will be used in the Science and Math programs at Glen Este Middle School. The program was made possible by the ExxonMobil Educational Alliance Program.

Team 7-3 News

Team 7-3 will begin reading Charles Dickens "A Christmas Carol" on December 3. Students will explore the background and setting, which includes the mid-1800's in London, England when debtors' prisons and workhouses were part of the landscape. A timeless message and universal theme of giving transcends the drama. On December 9, students will attend Playhouse in the Park's version of "A Christmas Carol." Students will have a firsthand opportunity to analyze dramatic devices and participate as audience members in an authentic presentation. At this time of year, the play emphasizes the tradition of charity, which students witness in their own homes and community.

PTO NEWS

Next PTO Meeting:

Thursday, December 4, 6:30 p.m.

GEMS Library

Language Arts Presentation at November Meeting

A BIG thanks to our Language Arts team members who were kind enough to speak at our November PTO meeting. They brought us up to date on this year's literature programs for grades 6, 7, and 8. They also informed us that our school was able to purchase new language arts textbooks this year. These textbooks are also entirely online. To access the textbooks and additional learning materials for all three grades online, go to www.classzone.com. The activation codes are:

For 6th grade materials, enter 2609505-10

For 7th grade materials, enter 2609505-20

For 8th grade materials, enter 2609505-30

Everyone should feel free to review these online textbooks to have a better understanding of your student's curriculum. We will also have this link on the PTO website in the near future.

Fall Fundraiser

Another HUGE thank you to the tireless efforts of Allison Jones as well as our students, parents, and staff, for making this year's GEMS PTO Fall Fundraiser a huge success despite difficult economic times.

Scallywag Tag

PTO is considering a winter session of Scallywag Tag, so if your student is interested, please look for flyers coming home and get them in as soon as possible. If we do not have enough interest, we will not run a winter session.

PTO Recipe Page

With the holidays rapidly approaching, please check out the PTO Recipe Page on the GEMS PTO website at www.gems-pt.org. You can get great recipe ideas and, even better, share some of your own!

PTO General News

The GEMS PTO is still looking for the following:

- Volunteer Coordinator

- Parent volunteers for the Allocation of Funds committee. Please email board@gems-pt.org if you are interested.

Volunteers Needed

PTO has a critical need for volunteers at these upcoming events:

Wed., Dec. 10 - Tasty Batters Cookie Dough Pickup

Mon., Dec. 15 through Fri., Dec. 19 - Donations for Teachers' Holiday Baskets (fresh fruit, packaged treats, candy, etc.)

Fri., Dec. 19 - Jingle Bell Bash

Please sign up in the office or go to www.gems-pt.org to volunteer.

*Please visit us at www.gems-pt.org
to get all the latest on your GEMS PTO*

2008 Reds Straight-A Program

Students who hit a home run academically can earn free Reds tickets as the Cincinnati Reds kick off the 2008 Straight-A Program. The Reds have designed the Straight-A Program to reward academic achievement among students in grades 7 through 12. Students obtaining an "A" or "A-" grade point average are eligible for free tickets. Each Straight-A student will be able to select two free View Level tickets for one of the designated Straight-A dates on the Reds 2008 schedule. Eligibility will be based on first quarter grades in all subjects. A list of students who qualify will be posted outside the school office in late January.

FCA & Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child is a ministry of the Samaritan's Purse Organization. By participating in this ministry, FCA packed and wrapped approximately 60 shoeboxes full of toys, clothing, hygiene products, etc. that will be delivered to needy children in over 90 countries, many of whom have never received a Christmas gift! Gifts are transported by Samaritan's Purse and partners by cargo planes, trucks, and sea containers to countries around the world. They are then transported by truck, bus, train, helicopter, boat, foot, dog sled, mule, and even camel to needy children. For more information on Operation Christmas Child, go to <http://www.samaritanspurse.org/index.php/occ/>.

Student Council News

Student Council is running their **Winter Wishes Campaign through December 12**. Students donate money during lunch times. The money is divided between GEMS students who are in need of help for the holidays and games, toys, crafts, and teen items for Children's Hospital Medical Center. There will be a contest between the teams to see which team collects the most money. The winning team will receive a treat. Student Council continues to sell school supplies in the school store during lunch times and also run the recycling program. Please use the new paper retriever/recycler located by the gymnasium. The school receives cash if you use this new one!