

# THE GLEN ESTE GAZETTE

*"Striving for Excellence"*

January 2009

Kevin S. Thacker, Principal \*\* Glen Este Middle School \*\* 4342 Glen Este-Withamsville Rd. \*\* Cincinnati, Ohio 45245  
947-7700 \*\* www.westcler.org/gm/ \*\* Fax 753-3462

## Message from the Principal . . . .

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a great winter break. I'm sure, if you're like me, you were ready to send your children back to school!

We've been busy getting back to a normal routine at GEMS and focusing on our upcoming tests in April. The state tests will take place April 20-29. It sounds like a long way off, but we've already begun the daunting task of scheduling. We want to make sure that not only the students are prepared for the tests, but that we are as well.

The OAT tests are certainly challenging for our students. It is a challenge that we, as a school community, take seriously. Everyone has their own opinions about state tests. I will tell you that I find that the state tests keep us focused on each of the state indicators and really keep us focused on each individual student and their mastery of the indicators. Despite what some may think, state tests don't have to limit a teacher's creativity in their instruction. They do, however, mandate what subject material the teacher needs to focus on in their planning.

As you may already know, each school in the state of Ohio receives a ranking, dependant upon how their students perform on the OAT. Last year, Glen Este Middle School earned an "Effective" ranking by the state by passing 8 out of 9 indicators. Last year's results showed that GEMS students made significant gains. More than half of our entire school scored "Advanced" or "Accelerated" on the reading and math tests. That was a tremendous showing by our kids and staff. This year, we are striving to earn an "Excellent" rating. I believe we have the resources and confidence to make that happen.

I look forward to seeing you January 29 and February 4 at parent/teacher conferences!

Sincerely,

Kevin S. Thacker

**NO SCHOOL**  
**MONDAY, JANUARY 19**  
**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

### Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher conferences will be held on Thursday, January 29 and on Wednesday, February 4 from 4:30-8:00 p.m. Enclosed is a conference request form. If you would like a conference with your child's teacher(s), please complete the enclosed form and return it to your child's first core teacher as soon as possible.

### 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!

#### November 2008

6-1 Jaquie Reuss-Morgan      7-1 Jesse Cupp  
6-2 Tyler Creel                      7-2 Tim Malott  
6-3 Makenna Lavatori              7-3 Katie Hudson

8-1 Logan Damron  
8-2 Steven Emerson  
8-3 Garrett Kandell

#### December 2008

6-1 Peyton Burdick                  7-1 Meaghan McGraw  
6-2 Shannon Foxton                  7-2 Chris Feist  
6-3 Toria Adkison                      7-3 Mark Hutchinson

8-1 Maddie Tzioumis  
8-2 Victoria Wilson  
8-3 Gabrielle Truitt

### Baby Pictures Needed

Baby pictures are needed for the 2008-09 yearbook. The person in the photo must be portrayed at 3" x 3" (or smaller). The person must be two years old or younger. Photos cannot be returned. Pictures must be submitted to Mrs. Walls in room 343 or bring them to the office.

## Important Dates

### January

14 7th Grade Winter Concert, 7:00 p.m., PAC  
16 End 2nd Quarter  
19 NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
23 Report Cards Mailed Home  
29 Parent-Teacher Conferences, 4:30-8:00 p.m.

### February

4 Parent-Teacher Conferences, 4:30-8:00 p.m.  
5 PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Library  
12 Yearbook Sale Ends  
13 NO SCHOOL, Mid-Winter Break  
16 NO SCHOOL, President's Day  
27 Interims Sent Home with Students

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**Parent-Teacher Conferences**  
**Thurs., Jan. 29 and Wed., Feb. 4**  
**4:30-8:00 p.m.**

**(Conference Request Form Enclosed)**

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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

Winter sports is winding down. If you haven't been to any of the games yet, please try to come out and support the teams. Schedules can be found on the GEMS web site under Sports.

#### Basketball

Team standings: 7th grade girls 3-3; 8th grade girls 5-1; 8th grade boys 3-2. Keep up the good work, athletes! Upcoming games:

January 12: Harrison - girls away, boys home

January 14: Winton Woods - girls home, boys away

January 21: Loveland - girls away, boys home

January 26: Milford - girls away, boys home

Basketball tournament play starts February 7. Seventh grade boys will play at Little Miami, 8th grade at Winton Woods, and 7th/8th grade girls at Amelia.

#### Wrestling

The 2008-09 wrestling roster: 7th Grade - **Andy Berger, Max Davis, Cameron Engel, Elliott Eschmann, Jordan Harris, Nathan Meyers, Cody Wilcox**; 8th Grade - **Nick Anderson, Nathan Bridewell, Blake Dalton, Austin Howe, C.J. Harvey, Eric Johnston, Jonathon Kirschbaum, Mike Mullinex, Austin Rowen, Sam Winter**. Coaches: **Brett Branson, Chris Redmond**. Upcoming wrestling meets:

January 13 - Tri-Meet at Sycamore

January 17 - Invitational at Wilmington

January 23 & 24 - Coaches Classic at Reading

January 30 & 31 - FAVC Tournament at Harrison

#### Cheerleading Competition

The Glen Este Middle School Cheerleaders will be attending The Ohio State University 2009 Cheerleading Team Competition on February 1 in Columbus, Ohio. Good luck to our 7th and 8th grade cheerleaders!

***Attention 7th Grade Parents  
Coming Soon:  
Washington, D. C. Trip  
Information Meeting  
(Date and Time To Be Announced)***

#### Groups To Begin Soon

Mrs. Kim Orlemann, 7th grade guidance counselor, will be offering a group for 7th grade students who are dealing with a divorce in the family. The group will run for 6 weeks during school hours. Fernside will also be facilitating a Grief Group for students who have lost a family member. This group will also be during school hours and will begin in February. If you would like your child to participate in either group, call Mrs. Orlemann at 947-7712 or have your child see Mrs. Orlemann.

#### Team 8-2 News

Students on Team 8-2 learned about the rock cycle and the three types of plate boundaries, as well as the geological land features seen at each. Students also learned about the connections between the rock cycle and plate tectonics from a local Geologist. Dr. A. M. Hunt from the University of Cincinnati brought in rock samples from all over the United States. Some samples were over one million years old! Manipulatives were also available for students to see how the different land features are created at each boundary.

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***Yearbook Sale Ends February 12  
Cost: \$30.00  
Checks Payable to GEMS***

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### PTO NEWS

**\*\*\* Date Change \* Date Change \* Date Change \*\*\***

**Next PTO Meeting  
Thursday, February 12  
GEMS Library, 6:30 p.m.**

#### A BIG Thanks . . . .

to our Mathematics team members who were kind enough to speak at our December PTO meeting. Alicia Walls and Emily Malone spoke with the group about the possibility of holding a family math night at GEMS. The night would help families understand and participate in math activities that the students are learning in all three grade levels.

#### Sallywag Tag

The Sallywag Tag winter session will run January 8 through February 26, 2009 and the cost is \$80 per student. Students will be bussed from the school to Sallywag and then are picked up by a parent no later than 5:30 p.m.

#### Winter Skating Party

A winter skating party for all grades will be held on Thursday, February 5 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Beechmont Rollarena. Students will be able to purchase tickets during lunch the week of February 2 through the 5th for \$3.00. Skate rental will be extra.

#### PTO Coordinators Needed

The Glen Este Middle School PTO is still looking for the following:

- Volunteer Coordinator
  - Parent volunteers for the Allocation of Funds Committee
- Please email [board@gems-pt.org](mailto:board@gems-pt.org) if you are interested.

#### Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed for the upcoming events:

- Feb. 2, Feb. 3, Feb. 4, Feb. 5 - Ticket sales for the Winter Skating Party, 10:45-12:45.
- Feb. 4 - Dessert donation needed for Parent-Teacher Conference night.

Please sign up in the office or go to [www.gems-pt.org](http://www.gems-pt.org) to volunteer.

**Please visit the PTO website at [www.gems-pt.org](http://www.gems-pt.org)  
to get all the latest PTO news!**

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***Talent Show Try-Outs Coming  
In February!***

***Listen to Announcements for More Details  
Start Practicing!***

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#### View Lunch Accounts Online

You may view your child's lunch account by going to [www.myschoolaccount.com](http://www.myschoolaccount.com). You can see what he/she has been purchasing and how much money there is left on the lunch account. You can even sign up for an email to notify you when the account drops below a pre-set minimum balance. If you have any questions about your child's account, please notify the cafeteria manager, Vivian Hale, at 947-7606 or Pam Sargent, Food Service Supervisor, at 943-5036.

#### S.A.T. Results

Sixth grade students enrolled in GEMS during the weeks of September 15-25 were administered the national Stanford Achievement Test. Your 6th grade student's results are included in this mailing. This report contains a paragraph for each subject area describing performance and adding suggestions for additional learning at home. If you have any questions regarding these results, contact either Mrs. Orlemann at 947-7712 or Mrs. Llamas at 947-7711.