



THE CHEETAH CHATTER

W.C. GIESE SCHOOL



December 2016

Volume 51

Number 4

Dear Giese Families,

Welcome to the Holiday Edition of the 2016 – 2017 *Cheetah Chatter*. We are entering December and our winter break will be December 22-January 2. **All children will return to school on Tuesday, January 3.**

In order to plan ahead, I wanted to make you aware that there is a 2-hour Early Release scheduled for Friday, January 20. Your child will be released at 12:45am on this day.

Our PTA is running a fundraiser to help us with attaining new safety mats for the gym. Our fundraiser will be O&H Kringles.. Please help us with our cause by purchasing some Kringles for the winter season. All proceeds will be used for new gym equipment,

The month of January will find all of our Giese Cheetahs (K-5) taking the NWEA MAP assessment during this period. Your child takes this assessment 3x a year. This is the Winter testing cycle. It is extremely important that all of our students give their best effort. The data from these assessments will help drive our instruction for the remainder of the school year.

I would like to take a moment and wish each and every Giese Family the best! Enjoy this time of the year with your family. As I am learning all too well, our children grow up way too fast! ☺ Also, take a moment and let those who are important to you know how you feel.

In the interest of practicing what I preach, I would like to take a moment and let the following groups of people know how important they are to me:

- My Family: for putting up with me through the ups and downs of this job
- The Giese Staff: better people I could NEVER hope for
- The Giese PTA: it is truly amazing what 3 people are able to do for a school
- The Giese Families: With your support, anything is possible
- The Giese Cheetahs: for putting a smile on my face every morning that bell rings

Thank you for your time and continued commitment to Giese Elementary...the best kept secret in RUSD!

Respectfully,

Thomas Hyland
Directing Principal – Giese Elementary
“The BEST kept secret in RUSD!”
2014-2015 Title I School of Recognition
2013-2014 Title I School of Recognition

Sign-up beginning December 1st, 2016

Choose RUSD

RUSD is considered an **exemplary model** for early learning in the state of Wisconsin!
We offer excellent educational choices for 3- and 4-year olds including 4K, Montessori and PCOC.

ENROLL NOW!

3-AND 4-YEAR OLD PROGRAMS

Must be 3 or
4-years old
by Sept. 1, 2017

There are four important steps to enroll and select a school or program for your child.

STEP 1

Enroll

Register your child in the District online at www.rusd.org/district/enrollment or in person at the Welcome Center, 3109 Mt. Pleasant St. The Welcome Center is open M-F, 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

STEP 2

Submit Forms

Provide your child's **birth certificate or baptismal record, proof of address and immunization record** to the RUSD Welcome Center. You can bring these documents in or scan them in and email them to enrollment.center@rusd.org.

STEP 3

Pick Up GUID

Once you complete registration, you will receive a confirmation email. At that time, you can go to **any RUSD school or the RUSD Welcome Center** to pick up your Infinite Campus Activation Code (GUID). **You will need this code in order to select a school or program for your child.**

STEP 4

Select School

Select your school or program online at www.rusd.org/district/enrollment or at the Welcome Center, 3109 Mt. Pleasant St., Mon-Fri, 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Giese will be offering All Day 4K next year! Sign-up now!

4 Y.O. KINDERGARTEN

December is going to be a busy month in Room 7. We will have our annual cookie decorating extravaganza on Friday, Dec. 16th from 1:30-2:30. I look forward to seeing many families there. We will walk to The Villa on Wednesday, Dec. 21st at 10:00 to sing Christmas carols to the residents and spread some holiday joy. We appreciate any wings approved volunteers who would like to accompany us. This is the season to consider donating gently used books and toys to our classroom as they are outgrown or replaced during the holiday season. Any donations that can't be used will be donated to charity. Our current theme is clothing. I am looking for people with expertise in this area to share their skills with the friends in Room 7. Please see me if you would like to volunteer. You must be Wings approved to come into the classroom. As the weather turns colder, please make sure your child is dressed appropriately. We are outside in the morning unless the wind chill/temperature is 10 degrees or lower. In closing, I would like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season.

KINDERGARTEN

WE ARE GETTING SMARTER - The school year is going fast, we have been in school for more than 50 days. Kindergarteners are working on learning to write names, numbers, letters, and words. We also have started to read small words with the vowel "a", like ram, map, sat, ran, etc. by blending the sounds we hear for each letter. In math, we are working on learning to read, write, count, and compare numbers 0 to 10.

WE NEED EXTRA PRACTICE - Things you can do at home to help your child succeed in his or her learning include writing first and last names, writing letters, and numbers. Please remember to use the proper formation; all writing begins at the top, watch how your child is forming letters. It is difficult to break the habit of writing from the bottom, so reinforcement at home is very helpful. The students have learned names for the lines: Sky line, Plane line, Grass line, and Worm line.

WE CAN READ - Also when reading stories with your child, talk about the story afterwards. Focus on one or more of these details: the setting, characters, telling the beginning, middle, and ending of the story. Then talk about the author and illustrator of the book. You can log any books

read by or to your child on the various reading logs your homeroom teacher may provide.

WE ARE KEEPING WARM - Just a reminder with the change in seasons, the classrooms at school vary in temperature, so it is a good idea to have multiple layers to take off or put on. Also, please have your child wear hats and mittens for recess. If you need any clothing, please send us a note or call us. *Don't forget to label all your child's belongings.* Thanks!

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT - We will be having a special family involvement planned this month. On Friday, December 16th we will have a Polar Express Day. So mark you calendars. Information will be coming from your homeroom teachers on how you can participate.

WE WANT TO THANK YOU - Thank you for attending our fall Parent-Teacher conferences. We appreciated meeting with your family to share the successes your child has made so far and the opportunity to discuss goals for the coming quarter. We wish all our families a very happy holiday season, take time to see the wondrous of the season through your child's eyes.

FIRST GRADE

The first grade teachers would like to send a special thanks to the parents and guardians who took time out of their busy day to discuss their child's progress at parent/teacher conferences. Don't hesitate to contact us if you have additional concerns.

Reading several minutes everyday is important for reading comprehension and developing fluency. Keep reading every night with your child.

Keep practicing addition and subtraction facts for memorization. These skills will help your child in math.

As the cold weather approaches, remember that all students in the first grade are outside for fifteen minutes everyday. Please dress your child according to the daily forecast. **LABEL EVERYTHING!** Sometimes our classrooms can be chilly. It might be helpful to have a sweater or sweatshirt that could be kept at school. When the snow comes an extra pair of socks might also be needed.

SECOND GRADE

The second grade has been enjoying swimming class and will be going on the 1st, 8th and 15th of this month. Please make sure to send in swimsuits and towels each week. We will be having our holiday music concert on Tuesday, December 13th. There is a performance during the day at 2:00 p.m. as well as in the evening at 6:00 p.m. We look forward to seeing you at the concert.

The students have been hard at work in class and are learning lots of new things. Make sure to ask your child daily what they have learned that day. Please continue to practice spelling words weekly. It is important to read and practice basic math facts as well. When your child is done reading make sure to ask them what they read about because comprehension is just as important as fluent reading.

The weather is ever changing and the students need to come prepared for the temperature inside and outside. They need to have boots and snow pants to go into the snow. Also hats and gloves are a must. If they are cold in class they can leave a sweatshirt at school or having one in their backpack would help. We would like to wish you and your family a happy holiday season.

THIRD GRADE

In Math, we are working on division. Please read through the Module 5 Parent Letter Home to work on division concepts.

Continue to have your child read each night. They can earn a FREE ticket to Six Flags Great America if they read 6 hours between now and the beginning of February. Pizza Hut Book It coupons come home each month through March for students who read.

The cold weather has arrived, please make sure your child has a warm coat, hat, and mittens. It's a good idea to have a sweatshirt in the classroom as well.

FOURTH GRADE

We hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving holiday. We are back for 3 ½ weeks before our next break and have a lot of learning to do.

Math: We just finished a chapter about multiplication and division. Please keep practicing these facts at home as the numbers will get larger as the year progresses. We'll be moving on to fractions next. Students may use Compass Learning or First in Math at home to keep practicing.

Social Studies: We are learning about the western United States. Students need to know the 13 states and capitals of the west. We will finish this chapter before the holiday break.

Reading: Encourage your child to bring home his/her vocabulary words and reading book at least once per week to study. Story tests are usually given on Fridays.

On Wednesday, December 21, we will be walking to the nursing home to bring holiday cheer to the residents. Students will sing the holiday songs they've been learning in music class. We may also plan a few fun classroom activities before the break. Students need to be on their best behavior to participate in these activities. We know this time is exciting for our students but we still have learning to do and then hopefully some time for fun things, too!

As always, feel free to contact us by phone or email with any concerns or questions

FIFTH GRADE

We are approximately 6 ½ weeks away from our winter MAP testing! You can help your child show significant growth by:

1. Having them read 15-20 minutes five days a week.
2. Using RUSD Websites weekly: Raz. Kids or Compass Learning for Reading & Math
3. Being certain that your child knows his/her multiplication facts.
4. Working through a math story problem nightly

A Note from the School Counselor



As the cold weather approaches, we have been warming the hearts of all the students ☺ This month we talked about self-confidence and self esteem as well as empathy and friendship. Younger students heard the story "Cupcake!" and we each created our own unique cupcake. Older students listened to the story "Unique Monique" and we wrote 5 or more of our favorite things about ourselves. Fifth graders are focusing and working hard on the 7 Habits of Happy Kids. We did Habit 2 "Begin with the end in mind". We talked about prioritizing and setting goals. We are excited to meet with all 5th grade parents this Spring.

Complimenting your children each day makes a huge difference.

Here are a few examples.

You are amazing!
I'm lucky to have you!
your hard work!

You have great ideas!
You're smart!
model!

You're kind!
you!

Great job! Nice try!
Thank you for

I am so proud of you!
You are a great role

I love being with

Check out www.loveandlogic.com for some great parenting resources.

As always feel free to contact us anytime with any questions or concerns.

Mrs. Howard 664-8282 (Counselor)

Mrs. Podskarbi 664-8262 (Social Worker)

Attendance Line : 664-8255

Student Government with Mrs.Cushman



Welcome back from Thanksgiving break. We have a lot to be thankful for. Thank you to our Giese family for collecting around 300 cans of food for our annual food drive. The Racine/Kenosha Community Action Agency was kind very grateful for our donation to the food bank.

Now that we are back our Sock Drive will begin. There is a collection box by the front office. Please donate new socks for our senior citizens. You can donate anything from plain white socks to silly holiday socks. These socks will brighten their day and bring holiday cheer to those in need. We will be delivering them the week of Dec 19th.

For more information you can visit this site <http://www.socksforseniors.com/>


We wish you all a happy holiday season. Stay warm and see you in January.

December 2016



Racine Unified Elementary Lunch Menu



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
5 Macaroni & Cheese Casserole Glazed Carrots Fresh Broccoli Fruit Medley	6 Cheese Ravioli w/ Spaghetti Sauce Garlic Toast Cucumber Slices Petite Banana	7 French Toast Sixs Turkey Sausage Patty Hash Brown 100% Vegetable Juice Orange Slices	8 Cheeseburger* Baked Beans Baby Carrots Apple Half	9 Lucky Tray Day Popcorn Chicken Hot Corn Romaine Salad Goldfish Crackers Juicy Pineapple
12 Pizza Dippers Steamed Broccoli Spaghetti Sauce Apple Half	13 Mini Turkey Corn Dogs Baked Beans Celery Sticks Goldfish Crackers Diced Pears	14 Mini Turkey Pancake Wraps Hash Brown 100% Vegetable Juice Orange Slices	15 Spaghetti with Meat Sauce* Garlic Toast Romaine Salad Diced Peaches	16 Salisbury Steak* Whipped Potatoes Dinner Roll Baby Carrots Fruit Medley
19 Cheese Quesadilla Green Beans Tortilla Chips Salsa Apple Half	20 Crispy Chicken Sandwich Baked Beans Cucumber Slices Petite Banana	21 Special Treat Day French Toast Sixs Turkey Sausage Link Hash Brown 100% Vegetable Juice Orange Slices	22  Happy Holidays	
26	27	28	29	30



Farm Fresh Produce
Featuring... Squash
Squash contains healthy fats Omega-3 and Omega-6 that your brain and nerves need to talk to your body.

Lunch \$2.55
(Milk included with meal)
Milk 45c
Offered Daily:
Skim White, Skim Chocolate

QuestGons
Call Arbor Management,
262-664-8700
dietitian@rusd.org
Menu changes may be necessary.
Notice will be given when possible.
A comprehensive Nutrition & Allergy Guide is available on the Unified website.

QUESTGONS

* This menu follows USDA National School Lunch Program guidelines. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

* Contains beef ingredients.

Elementary menus are pork- and nut-free.

Holiday Recess

December 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 2 nd Gr. Swimming YLA Parent Meeting 5:30-6:30 Cheer Practice "A-DAY"	2 4K in Session O&H Fundraiser forms due "B-DAY"	3
4 LIBRARY WEEK	5 "C-DAY"	6 Choir 2:45-3:30 "A-DAY"	7 Yearbook Candid pictures taken "B-DAY"	8 2 nd Gr. Swimming Just Say No Club-Gr. 4 Cheer Practice (2:45- 4:15 C-DAY	9 "A-DAY"	10
11	12 No band classes today Gr. 3 to Golden Rondelle "B-DAY"	13 No band classes No Choir Winter Concert Gr. K,1,2 6:00 pm "C-DAY"	14 Kohls Wild Theatre to perform "A-DAY"	15 2 nd Gr. Swimming O&H Kringle Pick-Up Winter Concert Gr. 3,4,5 6:00 pm "B-DAY"	16 "C-DAY"	17
18 LIBRARY WEEK	19 "A-DAY"	20 NO CHOIR "B-DAY"	21 "C-DAY"	22 Holiday Recess Begins	23	24
25 Christmas	26	27	28	29	30	31 Happy New Year!