



# THE CHEETAH CHATTER

## W.C. GIESE SCHOOL



April, 2015

Volume 49

Number 8

Dear Giese Families,

Welcome to the April Edition of the 2014-2015 *Cheetah Chatter*. This is probably our busiest month of the year. There are a lot of different activities and events taking place that I want to make you aware of. Your continued support is so important to what we do around here!

We are quickly approaching the end of third quarter, which officially ends on Thursday, April 2nd. Your child's report card will be sent home during the week of April 13<sup>th</sup> so that you will receive it after Easter Break.

As we enter April, we will be taking the Badger Exam. This test will replace the WKCE that is usually taken in October. This test will incorporate the Math and Reading skill that your students have been working on year long. This test is only for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. We will begin this test after Spring Break on the week of April 13<sup>th</sup>. Also, we will finish up our MAP testing at the end of April/early May. This test will show how much growth your child has made during the school year. We know your child(ren) will do their best on both tests

Speaking of the Giese PTA, the next meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the Giese Library. Please consider stopping by to hear of the exciting things planned for the remainder of the year! Volunteers are always welcome! ☺

The next Early Release is scheduled for Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. This will be a two-hour early release and lunch will be served. Your child will be dismissed at 12:45am.

There will be no school on Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> through April 12<sup>th</sup>. All students will return to school on Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>.

Finally, several parents have asked me about Summer School. Giese will be one of the elementary schools that will be hosting Summer School this year. I strongly encourage everyone to consider enrolling his or her child in this program. Please keep an eye out, as more information will be coming home with your child over the coming weeks.

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

Respectfully,

Thomas Hyland  
Principal - Giese Elementary  
"The BEST kept secret in RUSD!"  
2014 Title I School of Recognition  
2013 Title I School of Recognition

## 4 Yr. Old Kindergarten

I am excited to see the first signs of spring! I look forward to outdoor recess after this long winter of being inside. Please dress your child appropriately for the weather, as we will go outside as often as possible. We will work on many spring themed activities throughout the season. I have created a Donors choose project to get some new supplies and materials to help teach alphabet awareness. Please help spread the word and/or consider a donation to our project that is entitled "Letter Learners" on the [donorschoose.org](http://donorschoose.org) site. I thank you for your support. On a more personal note, I hope that all families have a safe and "hoppy" Spring Break and enjoy their time together.

## Kindergarten

We are almost done with the third quarter. Report cards will be sent home in the next few weeks, please return the bottom half with any comments or concerns you may have. The students are truly blossoming in their abilities, confidence, and friendships. We are very proud of the extra work they are doing at home to refine the skills taught at school. Continue to practice counting by 1's, 2's, 5's, & 10's. The children should also be working on learning all high frequency words and practicing blending letters to build, read, and spell words. We have several fun events planned for the spring. We will have a special concert at our annual Mother's Day Tea on Friday 5/8. There will be a fieldtrip to the Milwaukee Zoo on Tuesday 5/26. Please note the permission slip, lunch order, and fees are due Friday 4/17. And finally we are tentatively planning a city bus tour the first week of June for each class. Thanks so much for your continued support of our efforts to provide the best education for your child. Enjoy the ever-changing spring weather.

## First Grade

It's hard to believe third quarter is almost over and the end of the year is rapidly approaching. There is still a lot of learning to be done, so please encourage your child to stay focused. Spring MAP testing for 1<sup>st</sup> grade will begin soon. This is the last time your child will take the MAP test this school year. We will also take the PALS test before the end of May. These are very important tests. Please make sure your child is well rested and fed before he or she takes each test.

We are working on the topics of measurement and time in math. In first grade we work on telling time to the hour and half hour. Please remember to keep practicing addition and subtraction facts. Encourage reading and writing at home also. The Racine Public Library is always an excellent resource for finding books your child will enjoy reading.

Please remember to sign and return the lower part of the report card. Look for information to come about summer school.

Thank you to all of those who attended Parent-Teacher Conferences!

## **Second Grade**

Grade 2 had a great March! We did a lot of great reading and writing and the whole grade made big, comfortable chairs of our own after reading A Chair For My Mother. Come look at our hallway to see our creative and colorful ideas. We also grew beans, corn and peas with the Master Gardeners and were super excited to learn about how plants grow and what they need to thrive. We are excited to continue this learning by sharing what we know with our parents at school on 2nd. The plants we plant that day will be growing by the time we get back from Spring Break!

As Spring warms our weather, we want to remind families to send kids in layers, temperature inside and outside often changes during the day and we want your child to be comfortable and do their best at all times. Report cards will be coming home after Spring Break as will forms for Summer School enrollment. Please keep your eyes open for both.

The end of the year is approaching but we still have a lot of learning to do. Please make sure that your child is here on time at 8:00 AM and that you are still reading and practicing school skills at home daily. Let's make the last quarter a great one!

## **Third Grade**

Although it may be hard to believe, we have come to the final quarter of the school year. Report cards will be sent home sometime in the next few weeks. Please take some time to look them over with your child. The bottom portion should be signed and returned as soon as possible. Our students will be taking the Badger Exam sometime this month. This is a new state test that all Wisconsin third graders take.

Your child should be continuing to practice memorizing their basic facts at home, as well as spending time reading nightly. If you have Internet access, please encourage your child to work on Compass Learning and First In Math.

Master Gardner program visited us recently. Your child should have brought home their terrarium along with instructions for their care. Please continue to send in empty and clear 2 liter bottles for future projects.

## **Fourth Grade**

As we look forward to spring break, we hope to find everyone excited. We hope that everyone returns refreshed and ready to get back to school. We will be having a fundraiser towards the end of April for Mother's Day. The fundraiser will involve students taking orders from other students at school for Mother's Day. We will be selling carnations for Mother's Day, and we will be charging

\$1.00 for each flower. The students will be making signs and order forms to send home at the end of April.

In math we will be working more with geometry. We will learn the solids, lines, and angles. Please continue working on multiplication and division facts even though we have finished these chapters.

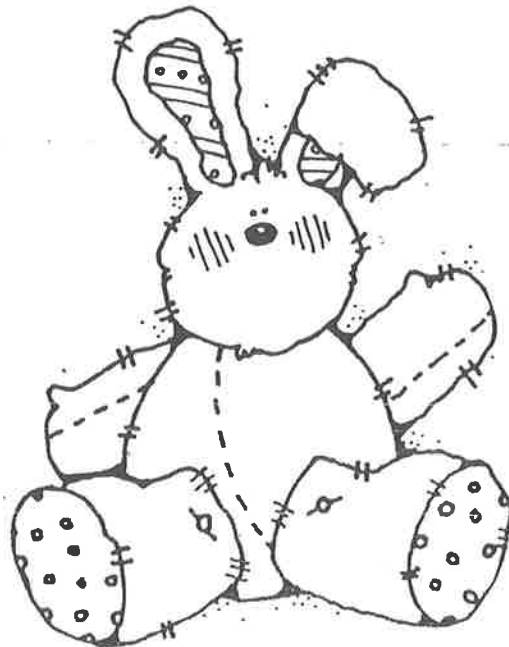
Many students are running low on pencils. Could you please ask your child if they are in need of any additional pencils. If so, please send them.

The week that we return from spring break we will begin the State Badger Exam. It is important that you send your children to school each day on time, well rested, and ready to do their best for this exam. We have been practicing, and feel that your children are prepared and ready for this.

We appreciate all that you do as parents. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. Let's make this last quarter the best quarter ever!

## Fifth Grade

Congratulations.....we made it to Spring Break! We ended the quarter with our annual Family Life unit. The students watched videos and discussed several important issues that they face today. On the final day of our lessons, we had all fifth grade girls go with Mrs. Gayle and all of the boys go to Mrs. Martinez. They watched the video on the changing of the body and then had the opportunity to ask questions. Please be open to answering any remaining questions that they might have for you at home. A couple of weeks ago, we took a field trip to the Racine Symphony Orchestra. The students enjoyed hearing the different instruments and learned a lot about the choices that they will have when they reach the middle school. We do have another free field trip coming up on Monday, April 13th. This is the first day back from Spring Break so please have your child in attendance and on time. We will be going to the Golden Rondelle to see Discovering Wildlife of Wisconsin. Enjoy the week off!



## A Note from the School Counselor and Social Worker

March's focus was on college and career planning. We did all sorts of activities in the classroom. Every student had the chance to share their thoughts of what they want to be when they grow up. PK-2<sup>nd</sup> grade heard the story LMNO Peas and Guess Who. We explored many careers and jobs. The 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders got to play career jeopardy (some younger classrooms too). We also talked about the amount of school and college needed for the variety of careers.

We are proud to announce Rooms 37 and 38 as our top winners for our Leukemia and Lymphoma Society fundraiser. Many other rooms raised quite a bit and are also winners of an extra recess this spring. Thank you to everyone for their donations to help fund this necessary organization helping local children who are suffering. Our school raised over \$800. GIESE ROCKS!!

We are planning to have our Bully Prevention Bingo night this spring, stay tuned for the date.

We are still noticing a few concerns lately as well. Some of the children are not making it for breakfast and have a hard time at school when they are hungry. We have breakfast here from 7:30-7:45 am and we know it is cold, but if they don't eat at home please send them so they can eat here. Otherwise some students (if their dinner was at 5pm) are waiting up to 16 hours to eat again as they wait for lunch at school. Meals with plenty of protein are necessary! Please make sure they are getting enough sleep too. Our students should be sleeping approximately 10-12 hours a night.

Feel free to contact us at anytime or visit us at conference time! Helpful websites: [www.loveandlogic.com](http://www.loveandlogic.com), [www.kidshealth.org](http://www.kidshealth.org) and <http://www.racinecountyfoodbank.org/>

Racine County Food Bank: (262) 632-2307

Mrs. Howard (counselor) 664-8282

Mrs. Podskarbi (social worker) 664-8262

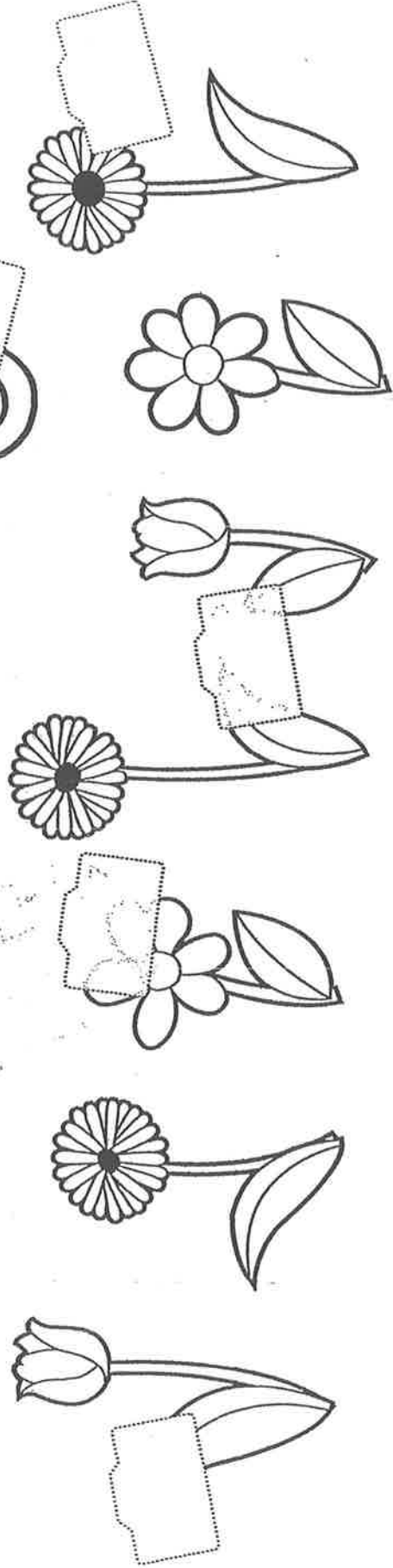
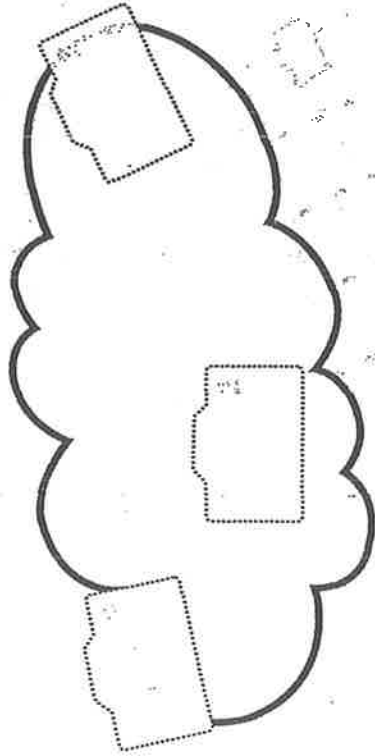
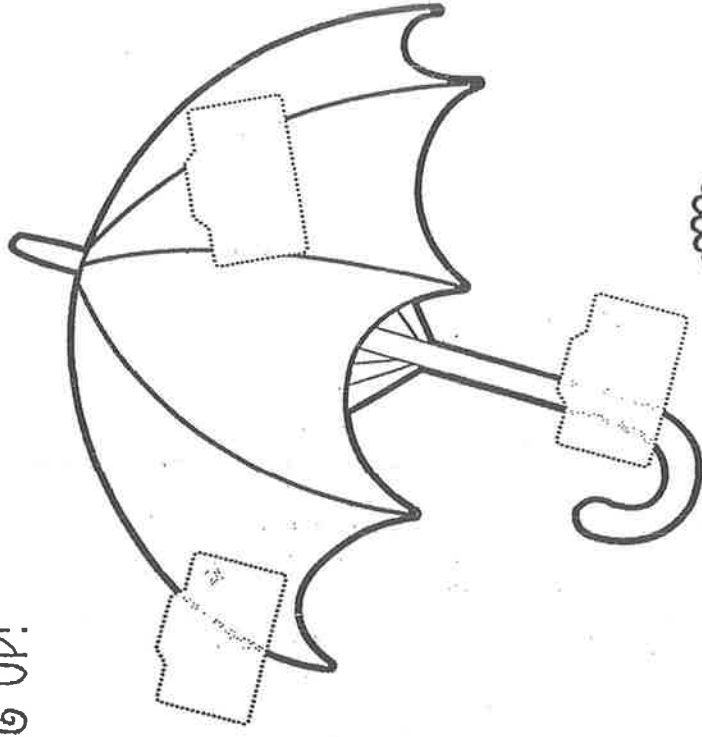
Attendance line – 664-8255

Homeroom competition going on thru month of May! Bring in your boxtops!!



# SHOWER YOUR SCHOOL WITH BOX TOPS

YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT WILL SPRING UP!



Every Box Top you collect is worth 10¢ for your school; just fill in the collection sheet and send it to school. Please do not staple Box Tops or attach Bonus Box Tops Certificates to any collection sheets. To see more ways to earn cash for your school, go to [BTFE.com](http://BTFE.com).



## April is National Autism Awareness Month

By: Kyami Cronin, M.S., CCC-SLP, Speech-Language Pathologist,  
Giese Elementary School

The Autism Society has chosen the month of April to celebrate National Autism Awareness. Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a complex developmental disability, which consists of certain behaviors that affect each individual differently and to varying degrees. It typically appears in individuals within the first three years of life and affects the person's ability to communicate and interact with others. There is no known single cause of autism. Statistic reports revealed the prevalence of autism is found in 1 of every 68 children in the United States, and almost 1 of 42 boys. Autism is treatable, but never "outgrown." Early identification and interventions can lead to significantly improved outcomes.

**A few signs to look for in the children in your life:** lack of or delay in spoken language, repetitive use of language and/or motor mannerisms (e.g., hand-flapping, twirling objects), little or no eye contact, lack of interest in peer relationships, lack of spontaneous or make-believe play, and/or persistent fixation on parts of objects. *The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) lists five specific behaviors that indicate further evaluation may be necessary:* **by 12 months:** does not babble or coo, gesture, point, wave or grasp; **by 16 months:** does not say single words; **by 24 months:** does not say 2-word phrases on his/her own; and **at any age** has a loss of any language or social skill.

Having these behaviors does not mean your child has autism, but individuals demonstrating these behaviors should be evaluated by a multi-disciplinary team. This team may include a neurologist, psychologist, developmental pediatrician, speech/language therapist, learning consultant, or other professionals knowledgeable about autism. For more information, contact your primary care physician, school psychologist or speech-language pathologist, or visit the Autism Society web page at: [www.autism-society.org](http://www.autism-society.org).

**\*\* April 2<sup>nd</sup> is World Autism Awareness Day \*\***

**Show your support by wearing BLUE and performing Autism Kindness Acts (AKAs)!  
Check out how the world will Light It Up Blue for Autism by visiting  
[www.autismspeaks.org](http://www.autismspeaks.org)**



## **AMC Theaters – Sensory Friendly Films In Partnership with the Autism Society**

AMC theaters have partnered with the Autism Society to bring sensory friendly films to families affected by Autism and other disabilities. These films showcase almost every month and provide an environment that is sensitive to special sensory needs. The lights are turned up and the sound is turned down! You can also bring in your own gluten-free, casein-free snacks, and viewers are even invited to get up out of their seats and dance, shout, walk or sing-a-long with the film!

The closest participating theater near the Racine area:

**AMC Theater - Mayfair Mall**  
2500 N. Mayfair  
(Hwy 100 & North Ave.)  
Wauwatosa, WI 53226  
Guest Services: (414) 777-0467

Next Showing: *(date, film & admission prices are subject to change at any time)*

**April 18, 2015**  
**Underdogs**

**Show begins at 10:00 AM**  
**Special admission price: \$7**

For more information, contact Mayfair Mall's AMC Theater or Giese's Speech Language Pathologist, Mrs. Cronin at 664-8265.

Visit the following web sites for more listings:

Autism Society: <http://www.autism-society.org/get-involved/events/sensory-friendly-films/>

AMC Theater–Mayfair Mall: <http://www.amctheatres.com/programs/sensory-friendly-films>





# Elementary Lunch Menu

## APRIL 2015



- Arbor A+ Nutrition Standards:**
- ✓ Make Choices for a Healthy Lifestyle!
  - ✓ Encourage nutritious & delicious Fruits & Vegetables
  - ✓ Chicken raised Cage-Free and Grain-Fed with NO added Hormones/Steroids
  - ✓ Fat Free or 1% Milk with NO Artificial Growth Hormones
  - ✓ Whole Grain Rich products every day
  - ✓ Minimal Saturated Fat, Added Sugars, Artificial Ingredients, and Sodium whenever possible!

**April is National Garden Month**


Try growing your own fruit or vegetable plant at home—take care of it and use the food it grows in your meal or snack!

Questions about the menu?  
 Call Arbor Management, Inc.  
 262-664-8700  
[www.arbormgt.com](http://www.arbormgt.com)



Lunch \$2.45  
 Milk 45¢

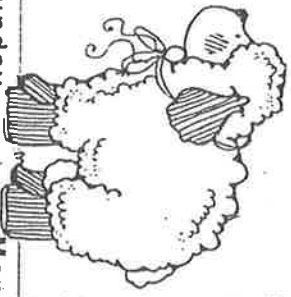
Comprehensive Nutrition & Allergy Guides are available on the RUSD website. Elementary menus are park- and nut-free.

| Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday   |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| (March 30)<br>Crispy Chicken Sandwich<br>Baked Beans<br>Fresh Broccoli Buds<br>Red Delicious Apple<br>Ranch Dressing          | (March 31)<br>Pizza Dippers w/<br>Marinara Dipping Sauce<br>Romaine Salad w/<br>Ranch Dressing<br>Juicy Diced Pears | 1 Salisbury Steak* w/<br>Homemade Gravy*<br>Dinner Roll<br>Whipped Potatoes<br>Crunchy Baby Carrots<br>Juicy Pineapple<br>Ranch Dressing | 2 Mini Corn Dogs<br>Colorful Mixed Vegetables<br>Fresh Cucumber Coins<br>Orange Smiles   | 3<br><br><br><br>NO SCHOOL   |
| 6<br><br><br><br>NO SCHOOL  | 7<br><br><br><br>NO SCHOOL  | 8<br><br>  | 9<br><br><br><br>NO SCHOOL   | 10<br><br><br><br>NO SCHOOL  |
| 13 Popcorn Chicken<br>Whipped Potatoes<br>Crunchy Baby Carrots<br>Applesauce<br>Ranch Dressing                                | 14 Beef Tacos* w/<br>Romaine Lettuce &<br>Shredded Cheese<br>Bean Dip<br>Red Delicious Apple                        | 15 Spaghetti w/ Meat<br>Sauce* & Garlic Toast<br>Romaine Salad w/<br>Ranch Dressing<br>Golden Peaches                                    | 16 French Toast Sticks<br>Turkey Sausage Patty<br>Hash Brown Triangle<br>100% Dragon Punch<br>Vegetable Juice<br>Orange Smiles | 17 Hot Ham & Cheese on<br>a Pretzel Bun Sandwich!<br>Fresh Broccoli Buds<br>Fresh Cucumber Coins<br>Fruit Medley<br>Ranch Dressing                             |
| 20 Chicken Nuggets<br>Golden Sweet Corn<br>Romaine Salad w/<br>Ranch Dressing<br>Juicy Diced Pears                            | 21 Mini Corn Dogs<br>Baked Beans<br>Crisp Celery Sticks<br>Orange Smiles<br>Ranch Dressing                          | 22 Creamy<br>Mac 'N Cheese<br>Steamed Broccoli<br>Crunchy Baby Carrots<br>Petite Banana<br>Ranch Dressing                                | 23 Cheese Pizza Slice<br>Fresh Cucumber Coins<br>Crunchy Baby Carrots<br>100% Pure Apple Juice<br>Ranch Dressing               | 24 EARLY RELEASE<br>Cold Turkey & Cheese<br>Deli Sub Sandwich<br>w/ Shredded Lettuce<br>Crunchy Baby Carrots<br>100% Pure Apple Juice<br>Iced Cinnamon Square! |
| 27 Chicken Nuggets w/<br>Seasoned Brown Rice*<br>Fresh Cucumber Coins<br>Crunchy Baby Carrots<br>Applesauce<br>Ranch Dressing | 28 Pizza Dippers w/<br>Marinara Dipping Sauce<br>Romaine Salad w/<br>Ranch Dressing<br>Mandarin Oranges             | 29 Saucy Meatball<br>Hoagie* w/<br>Mozzarella Cheese<br>Garden Sweet Peas<br>100% Pure Apple Juice                                       | 30 Hot Diggity Dog<br>Baked Beans<br>Fresh Broccoli Buds<br>100% Pure Apple Juice<br>Ranch Dressing<br>Lucky Tray Day!         | May 1<br>Cheese Pizza Slice<br>Fresh Cucumber Coins<br>Crunchy Baby Carrots<br>Red Delicious Apple<br>Ranch Dressing   |

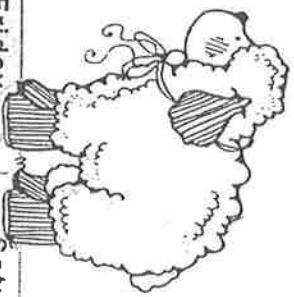
\*Contains beef ingredients. Menu changes may be necessary. Notice will be given when possible.  
 This menu follows USDA National School Lunch Program guidelines. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**Choice of Milk Daily**

~Arbor Management~



# April 2015



| Sunday             | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday                                      | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday |
|--------------------|---|---|--|--|--|----------|
|                    |   |   | 1<br>Transitions<br>Program Gr. 4<br>2:50-4:00 | 2 Gr. 2 Parent Involvement<br>1:30-2:30<br>Cheerleading Pizza Party<br>3:00-4:00<br>End of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter | 3<br>Good Friday<br>Spring Break<br>begins No School           | 4        |
| 5<br>Easter Sunday | 6<br>NO SCHOOL                                      | 7<br>NO SCHOOL                                      | 8<br>NO SCHOOL                                 | 9<br>NO SCHOOL   | 10<br>NO SCHOOL  | 11       |
| 12                 | 13<br>SCHOOL<br>RESUMES<br>Badger Testing<br>Begins | 14<br>Giese's Got<br>Talent Practice<br>2:45-4:00   | 15<br>Transition Program<br>2:45-4:00          | 16   | 17<br>Report Cards go<br>home                                  | 18       |
| 19                 | 20<br>Junior<br>Achievement Gr. 2<br>12:30-2:30     | 21<br>Giese's Got Talent<br>Practice<br>2:45-4:00   | 22   | 23<br>Positive Impact<br>Gr. 4 12:15   | 24<br>2 Hr. Early Release<br>School dismissed at<br>12:45 p.m. | 25       |
| 26                 | 27  | 28<br>Giese's Got<br>Talent Practice<br>2:45 - 4:00 | 29<br>Transition Program<br>Gr. 5<br>3:45-4:00 | 30   |  |          |

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