



December 2018

Volume 52

Number 4

Dear Giese Families,

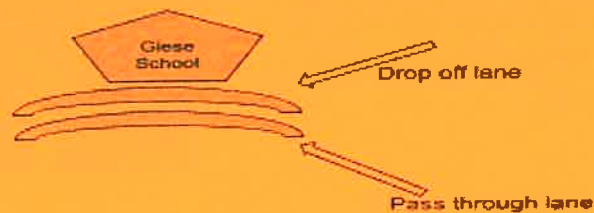
Welcome to another edition of the Cheetah Chatter. First, I'd like to thank all who attended our Thanksgiving Dinner and Title One Annual Meeting. Next, we'd like for you to know the dates for winter break. Our last day of this year will be Friday, December 21, 2018. It is a full day of school and students will have an opportunity to participate in the school store and in the holiday parties in their classroom. If you would prefer your child not participate in holiday-themed celebrations or events please let your child's classroom teacher know. Students will return to school Wednesday, January 2, 2019.

A few words about morning arrival. At 7:50 we open the classroom doors. Students are expected to enter through their classroom doors until 8:05. After 8:05 students are tardy and must enter through the front doors. If a parent arrives with a student after 8:05 and wishes to walk to the classroom- the parent must be accompanied by a Giese staff member. Please note, it is extremely difficult for a classroom teacher to conduct even a small conversation with a parent and maintain supervision. The staff member is there to assist with supervision of students should you need to speak with the teacher. Please help us implement this new procedure; it is for the safety of all of our students. In addition, any adult who is in the building during instructional hours must be WINGS approved. Please visit the RUSD website to complete the WINGS application.

Student drop off can be a little hairy in the mornings. In an effort to ensure safety for all students we are asking all parents who drive students to school use the following protocol:

1. If you want to walk a student to the classroom doors you must park on the street or in the lot. Do not park in the roundabout.
2. If you simply want to drop students off you must use the **Drop Off Lane**. Do not stop and wait in the roundabout. It hinders other parents from being able to drop off their students. If you must get out of your vehicle. PLEASE park in the lot or on the street.
3. The **Pass Through Lane** is ONLY for passing. Do Not drop students off in this lane.
4. Buses must pull into the **Drop Off Lane**. Please be mindful of the buses and allow buses to access the **Drop Off Lane**.

The diagram below describes the lanes. Let me know if there are questions.



As you may know, we have been learning and practicing ALICE strategies in an effort to prepare students and staff in the case we ever have the unfortunate experience of a violent intruder. Please ask your student about their knowledge and let us know if you have questions or concerns.

During the month of December Giese focuses on the Character Trait of Self Discipline. Our Morning Meeting Lessons will expose students to music, movie clips, and stories which helps teach them how to practice Self- Discipline. Feel free to join a Monday Morning Meeting to get a glimpse of how we are implementing good character traits in the Giese Learning Community. Our next Monday Morning Meeting, scheduled for December 3, 2018, during this meeting we will celebrate students' 1st Quarter accomplishments. Perfect Attendance for the 1st Quarter, Fall MAP Test Achievement, 1st Quarter Character Awards and November Student(s) of the Month Awards will be announced.

Holiday Performances are scheduled for December 18, 2018. Times are TBD. You will receive more information regarding the performance in the next few weeks.

Parents we are looking for a few Girl Scout Volunteers to lead groups (Brownies, Daisies and Scouts) We are looking for 4 to 6 adults ages 18 and over to lead the troops. If you know someone who may be interested please spread the word.

Finally, I'd like to take some time to wish all of you a warm Season's Greetings. We can not do this work without your support and your continued support is appreciated. Enjoy the upcoming winter break.

Respectfully,

Tangella King and the Giese School Family,

**my school.  
my choice.**  
their journey starts with you

**R**  
**RACINE  
UNIFIED**  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Choose Your School!

RUSD offers the opportunity for families to choose their school! If you'd like to apply for enrollment at a school other than your boundary area school, including the RUSD Montessori Program, Jefferson Lighthouse Elementary School, Red Apple Elementary School, Gilmore Fine Arts, Starbuck Middle School (IB), Walden III Middle and High School or The R.E.A.L. School, you can apply for enrollment online between Dec. 1 and Jan. 15.



## FOUR YEAR OLD KINDERGARTEN

**WE ARE GETTING SMARTER** - The school year is going fast, we have been in school for more than 50 days. Pre-Kindergarteners are working on learning to write names, numbers, letters, and draw pictures. We also are starting to hear beginning sounds of words and matching rhyming words.

**WE NEED EXTRA PRACTICE** - Things you can do at home to help your child succeed in his or her learning include writing 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: Skyline, fence 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 and what each does. You child "reads" books by memorizing familiar stories or telling the story by looking at the pictures.

**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, mittens, and boots for recess. Children can play in the snow if they have both snowpants and boots. 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 engagement activity planned this month. On Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup> we will have a Winter Workshop at in the afternoon. So mark you calendars. Information will be coming from your homeroom teachers on how you can participate, please RSVP.

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

From: Mrs. Balestrieri (room 7) and Mrs. Wamboldt (room 8)

## KINDERGARTEN

Students are well into learning the lowercase letters of the alphabet. Teachers suggest that parents, please practice with your child by asking questions such as: what is this letter? Can you tell me the sound of that letter? Can you tell me a word that starts with that sound? We have now learned half of the alphabet and almost every vowel. Recognizing and practicing the letters and sounds will help your child when we begin to move forward with putting the letters together to spell/read words. We have begun to identify and practice reading tricky words in books, around the classroom, and throughout the school!

We are also exploring numbers by recognizing them and knowing how many each number represents. We are currently focusing on the numbers 0-10. We are diving into where numbers are in a number line using the words: before, after, and beside. We will soon be focusing on measurement and words that describe size.

This Friday, we will be celebrating the last of the fall season with a coloring contest and snack on cider and donuts as a PBIS incentive. Students have also earned time at the Giese Guarantee store using tickets they've earned throughout the school day.

As the year goes on we will continue to learn the rest of the letters in the alphabet and begin to put them together to make words. Students will continue to focus on vowels and consonants in order to work toward reading CVC words. In Math, we will be learning more about numbers so we can begin to learn about adding, measuring, and tracking data.

## 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.

We will be going to the Golden Rondelle on December 3rd. We leave at 9:00 and will return at 10:30. We will be seeing *The Wright Brothers*. This program will focus on science, math, and technology.

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. Also, please practice tying shoes with your child(ren). A lot of them still need practice in order to do this independently, and it would be a great help to the teachers.

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.

Also, as the flu season approaches us please make sure that if your child has a fever to make sure you keep them home. We don't want to spread the flu virus to others. Thank you so much!

## SECOND GRADE

We hope everyone enjoyed a great Thanksgiving break with family and friends. Our swimming sessions are going well. The students are learning a lot about water safety. We have 4 sessions left.

We have been working hard here at school and lots of learning is taking place. Please continue to support this learning by having your child read at home daily. To continue to be successful in our upcoming math modules the students will need to be fluent with the addition and subtraction facts. Please continue to have them practice these at home as well. We will be taking our winter MAP tests in a few weeks.

## THIRD GRADE

In reading we are learning that when we read mysteries we need to pay attention to the clues to try to solve the mystery before the crime solver does.

In math we will be working on fractions. Please continue to practice basic math facts each night.

Be on the look-out for your child's spelling/Words Their Way sheet coming home. Part of homework is to complete the contract on the back and practice spelling words each night.

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.

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 4 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 until the holiday break. Students get math homework 2-3 times per week. Look over it with your child to help him/her and check for accuracy.

**Social Studies:** Chapter 5 - We are learning about the western United States. Students need to know the 13 states and capitals of the west as well as vocabulary, main ideas and facts about the west. Test will be Friday, Dec. 7.

**Reading/Writing-**Please encourage your child to read at home for 10-15 minutes per day, either silently or aloud. Look over work that is sent home to help him/her with writing skills. Many mistakes are being made with previously learned skills like punctuation, capitalization and spelling.

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.

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

## **Fifth grade "Just Say No" Club**

Fifth graders learned about the negative effects that marijuana has on the human body. We did a "Kahoot" lesson to check our knowledge. With states legalizing the drug, we talked about the fact that everything that is legal isn't always good for you.

### **Fifth Grade**

Tis the season for cold weather. Please send a sweatshirt or sweater to keep on hook at school. Kids are wanting to wear big coats all day and we can't allow that. Also, any Kleenex donations are greatly appreciated. We hope to see you at Case High School on Saturday 9-1:00 for the Choose Your School event. All fifth graders need to select the middle school of their choice. We will be holding an evening event at Giese for those that can't attend. Date to be announced. Please take the time this holiday to enjoy family and friends. These moments are important and much needed! Have a VERY Merry Christmas and holiday season. JUST SAY NO Fifth graders learned about the negative effects that marijuana has on the human body. We did a "Kahoot" lesson to check our knowledge. With states legalizing the drug, we talked about the fact that everything that is legal isn't always good for you.



## **Mrs. Howard was awarded the Encore Award!**

### **An Interview with Mrs. Howard**

Interviewed by Mrs. Jensen's Fifth grade class

Alison Gonzalez was our scribe.

#### **When did you decide you wanted to be a counselor?**

When I was young I wanted to be a nurse, so I could help people. When I went to college my mom encouraged me to be a teacher, but I was unsure of the right path. I started taking classes and realized that was exactly what I wanted to do! While attending classes at U.W. Parkside I took a class that required hours of volunteer work at Family Service of Racine and the Racine County Jail. It was there I realized that I wanted to be a counselor. It was the perfect job for me. I could teach and help people which are the two things I am passionate about.

#### **How long have you been a school counselor? How long have you been at Giese Elementary?**

I have been a school counselor for 12 years. I have been at Giese for all 12 of those years! First I was a teacher for about 7 years.

#### **What is the most rewarding part of your job?**

Having the opportunity to care for families, kids, and the staff members (which are some of my greatest friends). #GieseFamily

#### **What is the most challenging part of your job?**

When I don't know how to help it is challenging. Often times there are roadblocks that I can't change, but I try my best to help when I can. I also wish I could be there everyday.

#### **What would be one goal you have for this school year?**

I would like to really work hard to combine the P.B.I.S. committee, Student Council and Peer Mediators more. I'd love to get some ideas from all of the students and get involved in some creative work and community service and volunteering.

#### **Who is one role model that you have had in your life that has helped you become the great person that you are?**

My grandfather was a role model to me. I never met him personally as he passed before I was born, but I heard a lot about him from my family and the work he did for Racine schools, families and children. One famous quote that describes him is "A man never stood so tall as when he stoops down to help a child". I really wish I could have met and talked with him about all he did. His name is on the plaque here at Giese and I look at it everyday. That means a lot to me. Maybe this is where I am meant to be?

Thank you for taking the time to ask me questions and think of me!!



Ms. Snorek a kindergarten teacher was interviewed by Ayiyona and Destiny. The interview was conducted because Ms. Snorek won the Encore Award given to teachers who teach in RUSD.

Question 1 How does it feel to win this award?

It feels really good. I have been teaching for thirteen years and I enjoy what I do very much and it is nice to be recognized for my hard work.

Question 2 What is your favorite part of being a teacher?

I love working with children and seeing them grow throughout the year. Every day is different which makes it fun and challenging at the same time.

Question 3 How does it feel to be an upstander for your students?

It feels good. I enjoy being a role model for my students and someone they can look up to and model positive choices.

Question 4 Why did you decide to become a teacher?

I had an amazing kindergarten teacher who inspired me to be a kindergarten teacher just like her.

Question 5 Is there anyone that you would like to thank that helped you earn this award?

I would like to thank all the students that I have worked with in the past and present who have challenged me, loved me, and have made me into the teacher who I am today I couldn't have done it without them.





# Elementary School Lunch Menu

December 2018

**3**

**Chicken Drumstick w/ Dinner Roll**

Fresh Broccoli  
Mashed Potatoes  
Grape Juice

**4**

**Macaroni and Cheese w/ Pretzel Goldfish**

Steamed Carrots  
Banana

**5**

**Cheeseburger**

Baked Vegetarian Beans  
Baby Carrots  
Fresh Apple Half

**6**

**French Toast Sticks w/Syrup Sausage Patty Hash Brown**

Applesauce  
Dragon Juice

**7**

**Cheese Pizza**

Fresh Broccoli  
Fresh Cauliflower  
Diced Peaches

**10**

**Rotini & Meatballs with Garlic Toast**

Side Salad  
Grape Juice  
Mini Rice Krispie Treat

**Treat Day!**

**11**

**Sweet & Sour Popcorn Chicken with Brown Rice**

Cucumber Slices  
Baby Carrots  
Diced Pears

**12**

**Waffles with Sausage Patty**

Fresh Broccoli  
Apple Half  
Dragon Punch Juice

**13**

**Personal Cheese Pizza**

Baby Carrots  
Fresh Celery Sticks  
Oranges Wedges

**14**

**National Comfort Food Day! Chicken Nuggets w/Cheez-Its**

Baked Vegetarian Beans  
Fruit Mix

**17**

**Pancakes with Cheddar Omelet**

Fresh Broccoli  
Oranges Wedges  
Dragon Punch Juice

**18**

**Chicken Patty Sandwich**

Green Beans  
Apple Juice

**19**

**Chicken Gravy and Mashed potatoes w/ Dinner Roll**

Diced Peaches

**Ace Giveaway!**

**20**

**Beef Soft Tacos**

Refried Beans  
Apple Wedges

**21**

**Hot Dog**

Baby Carrots  
Fresh Broccoli  
Warm Cinnamon Apples

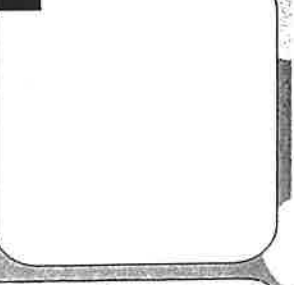
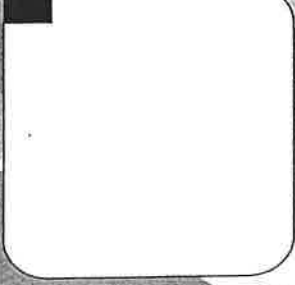


**25**

**26**

**27**

**Happy Holidays!**



**Served Daily**

White Skim Milk  
White 1% Milk  
Chocolate Skim Milk

**More info...**

Join us for a cozy meal on December 14<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate National Comfort Food Day!

# December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 Grade 1 to Golden Rondelle 9:00-10:30 A-DAY	4 B-DAY	5 C-DAY	6 Cheer Practice Grade 2 Swimming Yearbook Candid Pictures taken A-DAY	7 B-DAY	8
9	10 C-DAY	11 Grade 2 Swimming A-DAY	12 Gr. 3 to Golden Rondelle 9:00-10:30 B-DAY	13 Grade 2 Swimming Cheer Practice C-DAY	14 Case Carolers here A-DAY	15
16	17 B-DAY	18 Giese Winter Performance Times TBA C-DAY	19 A-DAY	20 4K Winter Workshop 1:30 Grade 2 Swimming Cheer Practice B-DAY	21 Last Day of School C-DAY	22 Winter Break Begins
23	24	25 Christmas	26	27	28	29
30	31	1 January	2 January School Resumes A-DAY			