



W.C. Giese Elementary School
5120 Byrd Ave
Racine, WI 53406
1(262) 664-8250

The Cheetah Chatter

Volume **55** Number **3**

December, 2020

Dear Giese Families,

Welcome to the December edition of the Cheetah Chatter. First, I'd like to thank all who attended our 1st Quarter Virtual Award Ceremony. We absolutely love celebrating our students' great work efforts and hope to see more awards given during our 2nd Quarter Award Ceremony.

As you know, Racine Unified School District is under an order that prevents teachers and staff from entering school buildings. We do however, recognize that you and your student may need some materials which are essential to the learning process. Due to this need, we have the flexibility to ensure that you are able to retrieve those essential items. Every Thursday during this order is pick up day for parents. You **MUST** make an appointment. Your child's teacher has all of the information you need to make the pick up happen. Please don't hesitate to call, email or DOJO. Please note: you can leave a message on the school's voicemail as phones are checked hourly.

Families, please mark your calendars for our Virtual Pajama Jam. The event takes place December 17, 2020 at 5:00pm. All are welcome to attend. We will add the virtual links to our Facebook page and to our RUSD Giese Web Page.

We still plan to have our Giese PBIS Store. The first store is in January. Students are receiving Dojo points daily from teachers. Please encourage your students to be present on time everyday. Encourage participation and work completion. I am certain students will love the items they are able to earn with their Dojo points. Store items will be mailed home.

Our last day of school before winter break will be Tuesday, December 22, 2020. It is a full day of school for students. Students will return to school Monday, January 4, 2021.

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

Tangella King Principal, Giese Elementary School

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS:

Please see the following as it contains annual information for our school's State Report Card



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December 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We have had a wonderful Fall at Giese Elementary School! We are excited about how well students have adjusted to remote learning. As a learning community, we are continually looking to improve Giese Elementary School. One source we use to reflect on our strengths and areas for improvement is the School Report Card.

Due to Wisconsin Act 185 barring the production of report cards this year, the most recent report cards are the 2018-19 report cards. However, although the 2018-19 report cards are the “most recent,” we encourage parents to visit WISEdash Public to view updated data that is not included in the 2018-19 report cards, which can be found at:

<https://wisedash.dpi.wi.gov/Dashboard/dashboard/16840>

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) generates a School Report Card and District Report Card for every publicly funded school and district in the state. These public report cards can be found online at: <http://dpi.wi.gov/accountability/report-cards>. The Report Cards are intended to help schools and districts utilize performance data to target their improvement efforts so that students are ready for their next educational step – including the next grade level, graduation, college, and careers.

At the foundation of the report cards are four priority areas. Schools and districts receive a score for each priority area:

- Student Achievement proficiency in English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics on the annual state assessments
- School Growth measured by year-to-year progress in ELA and math achievement
- Closing Gaps in performance between specific student groups (comparing English learners, low-income students, students with disabilities, and members of a racial or an ethnic group with their peers)
- On-Track and Postsecondary Readiness showing reliable predictors of how many students are on-track to graduate from high school and student readiness for post-high school success.

The priority area scores are aggregated into an overall accountability score, from 0 to 100. This score is displayed in the top left corner of the School or District Report Cards. It is important to note that the 0 to 100 accountability score is not a “percent correct” measurement. Based on its score, a school or district receives one of five rating categories, from Fails To Meet Expectations To Significantly Exceeds Expectations, as well as corresponding one to five stars.

Please let me know your thoughts and questions as they arise. I look forward to working with you to make 2020-21 a successful school year for your child!

Sincerely,

Tangella King, Principal

Giese Elementary School

Important Dates for families

December 11- 5K (Mielke) PBIS PJ celebration All Day

December 11- 4K (Wamboldt) Parent Engagement: Play and Patterns 1:30

December 17- Virtual Jammie Jam 5:00-6:30

Stay tuned for Student Council and Student Leadership Opportunities

Breakfasts and Lunches

RUSD meal service will take place Mondays and Thursdays. Students will receive 3 days of meals on Mondays and 4 days of meals on Thursdays.

Meal Distribution Sites

- **Mitchell K8: Monday & Thursday 9-10 a.m.**
- **Knapp: Monday & Thursday 9-10 a.m.**
- **Olympia Brown: Monday & Thursday 9-10 a.m.**
- **Horlick HS: Monday & Thursday 10-11:30 a.m. & 4:30-6:00 p.m.**
- **Park HS: Monday & Thursday 10-11:30 a.m.**
- **Starbuck: Monday & Thursday 4:30-6:00 p.m.**
- **Gifford K8: Monday & Thursday 4:30-6:00 p.m.**
- **Dietary Needs:** If your child has special dietary needs and has a current medical statement completed by a physician on file with our food service office, please email dietitian@rusd.org to request meals for your child. This request should include the name and student ID# for this child, the location, day(s) and time you would like to pick up meals. Advance notice is requested to allow for the preparation of the special meals.



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Attendance/Absences

Any time of the day or night you can call to report your child's absence at **664-8255**. Please leave your child's name, room number or teacher, and reason for absence and your relationship to the student. During this remote learning time it is very important that students are present daily for the synchronous learning time with the teacher. However, if your child is unable to attend class but finishes the posted assignment within 48 hours they can still be marked as P= participated/present not absent or truant.



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CLASSROOM NEWS:

4K - Mrs. Wamboldt Rm 8

WE ARE GETTING SMARTER - The school year is going fast, we have been learning 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 MATERIALS: Check out the week at a glance on our class website schedule page:

<https://sites.google.com/rusd.org/mrswamboldtslearningworkshop/daily-schedule>

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. A helpful way to help children form letters is to refer to the lines as Skyline (top line), fence line (middled dash-line), and Grass line (bottom 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.

Your child “reads” books by memorizing familiar stories or telling the story by looking at the pictures. Also you may receive emergent reader books that your child can practice “reading” by pointing to words and following the text from left to right. Allow your child to have books in their hands, turning pages and “reading” the story daily.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT – Please check out our Family Engagement activities, part of our 4 year old kindergarten program is a parent component. Please accept the invitation for “READY ROSIE” and check out the amazing family activities there. Mark your calendar for a Child and Grown Up virtual activity on Friday, December 11 at 1:30pm.

WE WANT TO THANK YOU – Thank you for attending our fall Parent-Teacher conferences in November. We appreciated meeting virtually with your family to talk about Glows and Grows for this year. We wish all our families a very happy holiday season, take time to see the wonder of the season through your child’s eyes.



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KINDERGARTEN - Ms. Snorek Rm 16; Ms Schmitt Rm 17; Ms. Mielke Rm 18

We are beginning to place letter sounds together to read words. Yes, we are beginning to read words. We do a finger tap to help us to read three letter words. We tap our pointing finger to our thumb and say the first sound. We then tap our middle finger to our thumb and say the second sound (usually it is a vowel). We tap our ring finger to the thumb as we say the third sound. We then stick our fingers together and slide our thumb under the fingers and say the sounds together. Please encourage your child to tap their fingers as they begin to read words.

In Math, we are still learning about numbers and how they can work together. We are also beginning to learn how to balance a math sentence. This leads to adding. A balanced math sentence looks like: 2 and 3 is 5. Later on, we replace the **and** with a + and the **is** with an =, so it becomes $2+3=5$.

For Science, we are learning about terms like push and pull as well as discussing the weather.

Each month, we are talking about a standard we are working on in our classes. This month, the standard is: K.RL.3 -With prompting and support, identifying characters, settings, and major story events. During Library time as well as our class work time, we are reading stories and asking about the characters within the books. We also discuss where the story is taking place (the setting) and we practice retelling the story to remember the events within the story as well as the sequence of these events (what happens first, next, & last). If you read stories to your child, perhaps near bed time, please take the time to discuss the stories as well. The Kindergartners love to share details of what they remember about a story. Enjoy the time together talking about the story.



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FIRST GRADE - Mrs. Ferguson Rm 19; Ms. Kossman Rm 20

First Grade Teachers would like to send a special thanks to the guardians who took time out of their 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 each day is important for reading comprehension and developing fluency. In addition, your child may log onto reading websites such as RAZkids at any time outside of school hours. Research shows that reading with and to your child will help with fluency.

Please encourage your child to complete at least 30 minutes per weekday on IXL, and please practice addition and subtraction math facts. Families can also create word problems that involve adding to or taking away. Any extra practice will help your child develop academic skills



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SECOND GRADE - Mrs. Estrada Rm 22; Ms. Hammad Rm 23

Hello Second Grade Families,

We hope you had a great Thanksgiving Holiday. November was a month full of new and exciting learning opportunities for our second graders. In Foundations,

students were introduced to vowel teams, r-controlled vowels, closed syllables and closed syllable exceptions. During reading we are working on finding the main topic, main ideas and supporting details in a paragraph and also applying it to other text. In addition, students have been exploring and comparing positions on a number line in Math. During writing time students became authors and wrote about a topic of their choice. Students learned about birds and frogs in Science. Finally, we started Social Studies and students learned about the Sioux tribe and how the people used buffalo and respected nature.

Please remind your child to complete the diagnostic arena questions every week on IXL. Two days on math, two days on ELA and one day on Diagnostic arenas is highly recommended each week. Continue to have your child go to Razkids and Prodigy. If you have any questions or concerns please contact us via email or dojo message.



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THIRD GRADE - Mrs. Underkofler Rm 34; Mrs. Walquist Rm 35

We hope that you and your family had a safe and restful holiday. Thank you again for all that joined us for Parent-Teacher Conferences, as this is truly a partnership. Please remember to continue to check your child's Google Classroom regularly. This will help ensure that your child is up to date on all assignments. All students should be reading and practicing math facts on a daily basis for 15-20 minutes. There are currently several different sites for online reading available for your child such as: raz-kids, epic, tumblebooks and the new Sora app. Additional resources can be located in our Google Classrooms or our class websites.

As we continue to move forward remotely it is extremely important that your child is present and on time for class each and every day. However, we do understand that illnesses, appointments, and things happen that will cause your child not to be able to attend. Please contact the attendance line at 664-8255, as you would if we were back in school normally. Also, please reach out to your child's teacher to get any missing work that your child needs to complete.

Thank you again for your continued help and support as we navigate this new journey. Again please don't hesitate to reach out through Dojo or email if you have any questions.



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FOURTH GRADE - Mrs. Lewno Rm 36; Ms. Mentink Rm 37

We also hope everyone had a wonderful holiday. By 4th grade, students should know all their addition and subtraction facts and be working on learning multiplication and division facts. Have your child practice these daily if he/she doesn't know them yet. These skills are required in order to be able to move on to multi-digit math problems and fractions. Students should be reading 15-20 minutes per day at home either with books in their hands or www.raz-kids.com, of which all students have an account. Please keep an eye on the work we assign on Google Classroom and whether your child has everything turned in by the due dates. Thank you to everyone who had a parent/teacher conference with us. In this virtual world, regular contact is necessary to keep everyone on track. Always let us know if you have any questions, concerns or needs.



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FIFTH GRADE - Ms. Panyk Rm 38; Mr. Lay Rm 39

We hope that you all enjoyed your Thanksgiving. Please make sure that your child is reviewing their basic multiplication and division facts. These skills will be needed as we continue to move to higher level problems using both multiplication and division. Your child should be reading 20 to 25 minutes a day. They can read any books that they have at home, go on to Raz-Kids, Epic books or the new Sora app. They can also search for books on Youtube to be read aloud to them. Please make sure that you are checking with your child daily about any work that they need to complete that is posted in Google Classroom. Look at the due dates and monitor for late assignments. Thank you to everyone who attended parent teacher conferences. If you need to contact us please use Dojo or send an email. Thank you for all that you do for your child and we wish you a happy holiday season.



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MUSIC - Ms. Schacher Rm 32

Hello everyone! I hope everyone enjoyed their holiday break and was able to relax. November was full of fun activities including some patriotic music for Veteran's day and some Native American music to bring awareness to Native American heritage month. In fourth and fifth grade we learned about sixteenth notes and have gotten to use our drumming skills to show how to use those notes. Just as a reminder, third, fourth and fifth graders should be completing an exit ticket after each music class. If a student is unable to attend music with us live that day, they are still asked to complete the exit ticket to the best of their ability. Wishing everyone a happy holiday season.



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PE - Mr. Wadzinski Rm Gym

I hope that you all enjoyed your Thanksgiving break and time to relax. We had a great November of getting all of our workouts in. Alphabet Exercising and Finding the Hidden Turkey were two of my favorites. As we continue to move forward remotely it is important that your child is present and on time for their PE class. However, I do understand that illnesses, appointments, and things happen that will cause your child not to be able to attend. If that happens, please find time for them to try to exercise that day. Staying healthy and fit is very important. Keep on moving Cheetahs!!



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ART - Ms. Anna Rm 31

Hello Cheetah Artists! I am enjoying all of the amazing talent we have here at Giese. I continue to be amazed by the innovative ways that our students have found to express their creativity in this online format. A few students are finding different ways to use their phones as a drawing pad using different apps like ibis Paint and that is welcome. As a class, I am continuing to encourage crayon collection building. Crayons are a great medium for learning how to draw and to shade. I have found many different novelty crayons at Dollar Tree. We have a lot of fun Winter inspired creations lined up for December and I am excited to share them with you. Keep up the amazing work Cheetah Artists!



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SCHOOL COUNSELOR - Mrs. Howard

This month we had some amazing discussions about honesty and telling the truth. Some students listened to a Winnie the Pooh story about all of the problems Roo had when he didn't share the truth and in the end, they all worked together. Older students listened to two versions of The Empty Pot which talked about honesty and integrity with some courage and empathy in there as well. Our Fifth grade worked on prioritizing and had some great discussions on how difficult that can be along with time management. I continue to be so proud of all of our children and families. I also included a sleep routine as well as a privacy folder that can help keep online learning fun, successful and better! Reach out if we can help you in any way. Up for December is our giant list of Free Gifts and Gratitude!! Stay warm.

What Time Should Your Kids Go To Bed?							
Wake Up Time							
	6:00 AM	6:15 AM	6:30 AM	6:45 AM	7:00 AM	7:15 AM	7:30 AM
Age	Bed Time						
5	6:45 PM	7:00 PM	7:15 PM	7:30 PM	7:30 PM	8:15 PM	8:30 PM
6	7:00 PM	7:15 PM	7:30 PM	7:30 PM	8:00 PM	8:15 PM	8:30 PM
7	7:15 PM	7:15 PM	7:30 PM	8:00 PM	8:15 PM	8:30 PM	8:45 PM
8	7:30 PM	7:30 PM	8:00 PM	8:15 PM	8:30 PM	8:45 PM	9:00 PM
9	7:30 PM	8:00 PM	8:15 PM	8:30 PM	8:45 PM	9:00 PM	9:15 PM
10	8:00 PM	8:15 PM	8:30 PM	8:45 PM	9:00 PM	9:15 PM	9:30 PM
11	8:15 PM	8:30 PM	8:45 PM	9:00 PM	9:15 PM	9:30 PM	9:45 PM
12	8:15 PM	8:30 PM	8:45 PM	9:00 PM	9:15 PM	9:30 PM	9:45 PM

Credit: Wilson Elementary School



<https://www.rusd.org/giese/counselors-corner>

664-8282



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NURSES - Nurse Jordan and Nurse Suzi

Please continue to stay safe! Wear your mask, social distance and wash your hands!!

664-8264 or 664-8268



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IXL Champions

Congratulations November IXL Champions!

IXL Champions

November 2-9, 2020

1st Place- Ms. Panyk's 5th grade=70 growth & +2653 questions

2nd Place - Mrs. Mentink's 4th grade= +61 growth & 3112 questions

3rd Place - Mrs. Walquist's 3rd grade= +58 growth & 2335 questions

Awesome job!! Keep up the great work!

IXL Champions

November 9-13th

1st Place- Ms. Panyk's 5th grade = +65 growth & +1823 questions

2nd Place - Mrs. Walquist 3rd grade = +64 growth + 3316 questions

3rd Place - Mrs. Mentink's 4th grade = +64 growth & +2444 questions

Awesome Job! Keep up the great work

IXL Champions

November 16-20th

1st Place - Mrs. Mentink's 4th gr= +73 growth & +1362 questions

2nd Place - Ms. Panyk's 5th gr = +72 growth & +1418 questions

3rd Place - Ms. Walquist's 3rd gr = +62 growth & +2087 questions

Awesome job!! Keep up the great work!



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