

# Green Isle Community School

190 McGrann Street • PO Box 277 • Green Isle, MN 55338  
507.326.7144 507.326.5434 (fax)  
www.greenislecommunityschool.org • e-mail: info@greenislecommunityschool.org



## Weekly Newsletter - Friday, October 9, 2009

### ELDER'S COFFEE - Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup> - 11:30am

Our first Elder's Coffee will be held on Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup> from 11:30am-12:50pm in the cafeteria. Community members are invited to join Mrs. Grams' Homeroom for an activity with the students and lunch. Please call the office at 507.326.7144 to reserve your spot! We look forward to seeing you again! (FYI: Anyone adult older than the students counts as an 'elder'!)



### SELL THAT COOKIE DOUGH! - COOKIE DOUGH FUNDRAISER SALE ENDS MONDAY!



This is the last weekend to sell some cookie dough! Orders are due on Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. Products will be available for pick-up before the Thanksgiving Break. Fundraiser proceeds will go to our Elder's residency and field trip costs and the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders can put their proceeds toward their Audubon Camping Experience in February. Thank you for supporting our fundraising efforts!

### FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

This week we spent time talking with our classes about Fire Prevention and toured the Green Isle Fire Department. Special thanks to the volunteer fire fighters that spent time with all of us at the fire station on Wednesday. Remember to talk with your child about fire safety at home and to come up with an emergency plan in case of a fire at your home.



### GICS SPAGHETTI DINNER - Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> - 5-8pm

Our Annual Spaghetti Dinner will be on Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> from 5-8pm. You should have received information about the dinner this week. Please send in your paid tickets and money to the office. More tickets are available if you need them. Thanks for your support of this event.



### Q & A: In what ways does Responsive Classroom make for a kind, safe, respectful and predictable school environment?

By working together teachers and students construct their own classroom rules to live by, giving students a genuine stake in the quality of the classroom while fostering their

independence and decision-making skills. Teachers guide students through a process over several days during the first 6 weeks of school to establish the basis of a strong, collaborative classroom community. Each child identifies his or her own personal hopes and dreams for the year, which usually includes one learning goal and one social goal he or she would like to achieve. This forms the basis for the class identifying what conditions they need to be present for everyone to achieve their goals. This, in turn, leads to the creation of classroom rules

#### How are the classroom rules actually constructed?

Classroom rules usually are the result of a brainstorming session with the whole class. Children often identify things like "no talking loud", "one person talking at a time", "taking turns", "don't wreck school supplies", "no hitting, pushing, or shoving", "no bad words." Since we want to keep the rules simple and upbeat, teachers work with the children to change these into positive statements. Examples might include:

1. Keep a calm body.
2. Take care of yourself and your belongings.
3. Treat others the way you want to be treated.
4. Do your personal best.

They are posted around the room for regular reference.

#### What happens when rules are broken?

Teachers spend time working with children to think through what would be a logical consequence when children break the rules. We have a Responsive Classroom mantra, "If you break it, you fix it." This refers to damaged property as well as hurt feelings. The

consequence may be an “apology of action”. Sometimes, to accompany a verbal apology, students may write a note or make a card to make amends with the upset child. At other times students may have a “loss of privilege.” That may include not being able to play a computer game during choice or some other “special, optional” situation. It does not include taking away something that is intrinsic to the academic program. Obviously more egregious behaviors require a different approach and may result in referral to the director.

**Thank you, families, for all you do to help make GICS a great place for kids!**

**GICS CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

<b>OCTOBER 2009</b>	
Monday, October 5 – Friday, October 9	Fire Prevention Week
Monday, October 12 – Wednesday, October 14	NWEA MAP Testing
Wednesday, October 14	<b>Happy Birthday, Ms. Kristen Strauss!</b>
<b>Thursday, October 15 – Friday, October 16</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL - Teacher Professional Days</b>
Monday, October 19 – Friday, October 23	NWEA MAP Make-up Testing
Monday, October 19	Elder’s Coffee – 11:30-12:50pm - Meath - JG
Thursday, October 22	GICS Board Meeting – 5:30pm * Note Date Change due to No School
Thursday, October 22	CVN – Community Volunteer Network Meeting – 7pm * Note Date Change due to No School
Friday, October 23	<b>Happy Birthday, Ms. Kristine Schwartz!</b>
Friday, October 23	<b>GICS Spaghetti Dinner -5-8pm</b>
<b>Wednesday, October 28</b>	<b>Early Dismissal – 1pm</b>
<b>NOVEMBER 2009</b>	
Friday, November 13	End of Trimester 1
<b>Friday, November 20</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL/Teacher Work Day</b>
Monday, November 23	Report Cards Sent Home
Monday, November 23	Evening Conferences 3:30-8:00pm
Tuesday, November 24	Evening Conferences 3:30-8:00pm
Tuesday, November 24	Cookie Dough Pick-up
<b>Wednesday, November 25-Friday, November 27</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL/Thanksgiving Break</b>
<b>DECEMBER 2009</b>	
<b>Wednesday, December 2</b>	<b>Early Release – 1pm</b>
Thursday, December 11	Winter Program – 7pm
Thursday, December 11	<b>Happy Birthday, Mr. James Alcorn!</b>
	Field Trip – Old Log Theatre
<b>Wednesday, December 23- Thursday, December 31</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL – Winter Break</b>
<b>JANUARY 2010</b>	
<b>Friday, January 1</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL – Winter Break</b>
Monday, January 4	School Resumes

<b>* GREEN ISLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL STAFF *</b>	
Administrative Assistant	Jo Liebhard
Director	Kirsten Kinzler
Kindergarten	Terry Kroehler
Grades 1-3 - Meath	Julie Grams
Grades 1-3 - Meath	Kristy Konopacki
Grades 4-6 - County Cork	James Alcorn
Grades 4-6 - County Cork	Jennifer Faber
Reading/Math/Phy-ed Teacher	Kristen Strauss
Special Education	Kristine Schwartz
Library/School Volunteer	Mary Kay Donnay
Library	Holly Harjes
Extended Day	Ida Dissette
Preschool	Ann Czarnecki
Paraprofessional	Ashley Reetz
Business Manager	Keith Johnson

**Extended Day Hours**  
**Grades K-6**  
**6:30am - 8:15am.**  
**3:00pm - 6:00pm**  
**Come Join Us!**

**PLEASE SAVE:**  
 Campbell’s Labels  
 Boxtops for Education  
 Kemps Milk Lids  
 Our Family UPC’s  
 Ink Cartridges  
 Drop off at the school office!

**Mission:** Green Isle Community School will foster a positive and respectful multiage environment that promotes educational excellence, service learning, community connections, and responsible citizenship.