

# Green Isle Community School

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## Weekly Newsletter - Friday, September 12, 2008



### GOAL PLANNING CONFERENCES - Tuesday, 9/16 & Thursday, 9/18

Don't forget to attend your goal planning conference with your child next week. The dates are Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-7:30pm. If you did not sign up for a time, your child's teacher will send home a note with your time.

### GREEN ISLE 'OK CORRAL' REUNION

On Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, over 85 former Green Isle students were in our building! Student Ambassadors greeted our visitors at the door and conducted tours of the building. GICS students completed their program by singing a few of their favorite songs for the group. What a great way to 'show off' our wonderful school! Did you see the pictures in the Arlington Enterprise?



### RESPONSIVE CLASSROOM

Hopefully by now, your child has talked about their school day and you've heard things like: Morning Meeting, Guided Discoveries, Classroom/School Guidelines, and about some of the fun games we've been introducing to the children. All of this is part of our Responsive Classroom School-wide approach that we adopted last year and are refining this year. Most of our staff has been trained in the RC method over the past summer. We think this approach has made a big difference in our school. Read on for some answers to Frequently Asked Questions...

## Responsive Classroom (RC) Frequently Asked Questions

### How did the Responsive Classroom begin?

In 1981, six public-school teachers in Greenfield, Massachusetts, brought together by a vision of making elementary and middle schools better places for children, founded the nonprofit Northeast Foundation for Children (NEFC). In 1997, Origins, a Minnesota nonprofit educational organization dedicated to building strong, inclusive learning communities, became a regional center for the *Responsive Classroom*, NEFC's powerful set of approaches that help schools become caring places where all students can succeed.

### What is the Responsive Classroom philosophy?

NEFC and Origins help schools become communities where children feel understood, safe, valued, and respected, and where they learn to value and respect others. Educators who understand child development are more likely to make classrooms responsive to children's physical, emotional, social, and intellectual needs at each stage of development.

Children attain the greatest cognitive and social growth when they learn to care for themselves, each other, and the school environment. Daily experience in the classroom has taught us to integrate academic and social learning throughout the school day, nurturing students who are informed, ethical problem solvers and engaged learners. We encourage teachers to provide ample opportunity for students to explore subject matter so that they can construct their own understanding independently and through frequent social interactions. We believe, along with many teachers and theorists, that how children learn is as important as what they learn.

### What is the Responsive Classroom approach?

The approach of both integrates what students need to learn with what we know about how they learn. Teachers adjust the approach according to each child and each group of children while striving to help the children attain maximum competence in academic and social skills by:

- teaching respect and caring as the basis for interaction so that everyone feels significant and included
- identifying, with students, clear, meaningful boundaries for behavior so that everyone feels safe
- structuring opportunities for children to explore their environment and learn to take care of it
- valuing and displaying children's ideas, creations, and discoveries
- enabling children to experiment, practice social and academic skills, solve problems, and make fruitful mistakes
- asking and encouraging thoughtful questions which can have more than one answer
- observing children as they work and assessing their work in terms of developmental milestones
- involving parents and guardians in their children's education
- emphasizing cooperation, assertion, responsibility, empathy, and self-control throughout the teaching day

## GICS SPAGHETTI DINNER – Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup> – 5-8pm

Tickets came home with the students this week for our Annual GICS Spaghetti Dinner. Please try to sell at least one book of tickets. The food is great and the company is awesome! (that'd be all of us!)



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We could use some help with our Campbell Soup Labels, Milk Lids, Boxtops, etc. - sorting, counting, cutting.

Have you noticed the empty bulletin board in the entryway? We could use some help decorating and maintain this bulletin board. If you are interested in either of these opportunities, please give us a call.



Have you handed in your Lunch \$, Milk/Juice \$, Extended Day Contract/\$, Shared Supplies \$, Emergency Card, other paperwork???? Whew!

## GICS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2008	
Tuesday, September 16	Goal Planning Conferences
Thursday, September 18	Goal Planning Conferences
Friday, September 19	<b>Happy Birthday, Ms. Kroehler!</b>
Saturday, September 20	Green Isle Oktoberfest
Monday, September 22 – Friday, September 26	NWEA MAP Testing
Thursday, September 25	GICS Board Meeting – 5:30pm * Note Date Change due to Conferences
Thursday, September 25	CVN – Community Volunteer Network Meeting – 7pm *Note Date Change due to Conferences
Friday, September 26	Tie-Dyeing Shirts – Homeroom Activity
Monday, September 29 – Tuesday, September 30	NWEA MAP Make-up Testing
OCTOBER 2008	
Monday, October 1	PICTURE DAY!
Thursday, October 16 – Friday, October 17	No School / Teacher Professional Days
Thursday, October 23	<b>Happy Birthday, Ms. Schwartz!</b>
Thursday, October 23	GICS Board Meeting – 5:30pm * Note Date Change due to No School
Thursday, October 23	CVN – Community Volunteer Network Meeting – 7pm * Note Date Change due to No School
Friday, October 24	<b>GICS Spaghetti Dinner -5-8pm</b>

* GREEN ISLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL STAFF *	
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	Kristen Strauss
Reading & Math Teacher/Para	Shelly Otto-Fisher
Special Education	Kristine Schwartz
Library/School Volunteer	Mary Kay Donnay
Library	Holly Harjes
Extended Day	Ida Dissette
Preschool/Paraprofessional	Kacy (Panning) Honl
Paraprofessional	Karen Ritsema
Paraprofessional	Ashley Danielson
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.